

Buchanan DOL renamed in honor of Victor M. Cosme

As part of Fort Buchanan's Army Community Covenant program, long time garrison employee and Army veteran recognized for service to garrison and country.

Marc McCormick
El Morro

"Master Sergeant (Ret.) Victor Manuel Cosme Russé, served in the U.S. Army from 1967 through 1988," that's the way the plaque began. The story is more than that.

On the 21st of August, family, friends, former co-workers, municipal officials and garrison employees met at the



Family members of Victor Cosme stand in front of the newly renamed Department of Logistics building at Fort Buchanan.

front of Bldg. 504, the Fort Buchanan Department of Logistics, to honor Victor Cosme-Russé by renaming the facility in his honor.

DOL Director Jose L. Miranda offered remembrances of the time he spent with Cosme recounting Cosme's attention to duty, his warm friendship and Cosme's caring for his fellow workers. Cosme reached out to everyone he knew and was especially remembered for always providing home cooking for employees and notably Soldiers assigned to the garrison.

"He would always see to it that single Soldiers at the garrison were able to enjoy Thanksgiving and other holidays," Miranda said.

Fort Buchanan Commanding Officer Col. Edwin C. Domingo, in his remarks about service, quoted a passage from Army Values, "'Put the welfare of the nation, the Army, and subordinates before your own.'" He was describing Cosme's life and legacy.

"These quotes highlight one of the most visible and significant Army values – selfless service. It means doing what's right for the nation, the Army, Fort Buchanan, your co-workers and your family. It denotes a service which is performed without any further expectation but to accomplish the mission the best way possible," Domingo said.

Cosme served most of his time at Fort Buchanan when there were Soldiers stationed here. He also was integral to the moving of United States Army Southern Command from Panama to Puerto Rico. He had served as the Non-commissioned Officer in Charge at DOL, and, upon retirement, worked as a civilian continuing his service of excellence.

Domingo said, "As a proud member of the United States Army, Master Sergeant Cosme Russé overcame many challenges with profound accomplishments, professionalism, and dedicated service. He set examples and standards for others to emulate by being a true Soldier keeping with the highest traditions of the military service."

"Besides being an excellent Soldier, Master Sergeant Cosme Russé was also an excellent civilian. Many will remember him as Master Sergeant Cosme Russé but for others, this jibarito from Arecibo will always be remembered as Mr. Cosme from DOL."



Photos by Marcos Orenco

Fort Buchanan Commanding Officer Col. Edwin C. Domingo presented the Victor Cosme-Russé family a remembrance poster following the renaming of the Department of Logistics Bldg. 504 in Cosme's honor. Accepting are Cosme's son Victor, his widow Blanca Marrero-Vazquez and Cosme's daughter Blanca Iris Cosme-Marrero.

bered as Mr. Cosme from DOL."

Cosme passed away March 2, 2003 but his memory lives on. The ceremony was a great tribute to those he left behind.

Attending the ceremony were his widow, Blanca I. Marrero-Vazquez; son Victor M. Cosme; daughter Blanca I. Cosme-Marrero and Cosme's mother Iliá Santiago and grandchildren Jonathan Cosme, Jaudan Coss-Cosme and Maritza Cosme.

Other distinguished guests were former Puerto Rican senator Dr. Miriam Ramirez; U.S. Army Reserve Ambassador Horacio Cabrera; members of the armed forces such as Brig. Gen. (ret.) and Mrs. Antonio Rodriguez-Balinas; senior Army advisor Col. Jose R. Rosa; 1st Mission Support Command Chief of Staff Col. Miguel A. Issac and members of Puerto Rican federal agencies.

There is a plaque adjacent to the entrance to DOL first mentioned at the beginning of the story and inside there is a wall display recounting Cosme's life and history.

As we started with the plaque, it is fitting to conclude with another extract and words to live by, "In each position of responsibility, he consistently projected himself beyond the normally expected performance, and set an example for all others to emulate."

Garrison commanding officer addresses FRG members at conference

Marc McCormick
El Morro

1st Mission Support Command held a three day Family Readiness Group Conference at the San Juan Caribe Hilton Hotel.

1st Mission Support Command Executive Officer Col. Miguel A. Isaac; Deputy Commanding Officer José Gotay; Col. Héctor López, commanding officer, 210th Regional Support Group, along with members of the their staffs, gathered together with Soldiers, their families and support activities in support of the unit's commitment to Army Families. The three day

event discussed issues important to Army families when the Soldier is deployed.

In addition to 1st MSC personnel attending the conference was the Commanding Officer of Fort Buchanan Col. Edwin C. Domingo and members of the Puerto Rico National Guard's 5th Brigade.

Domingo was the featured speaker the opening evening of the event. In his speech, he said, "Someone said that there is nothing more constant than change. It is inevitable in any area of our lives – as individuals, as family, as members of any organization or group within society. That is why Soldiers, family members, civilians, and even veterans are aware of a

message that has been constant for years – the Army's transformation."

Domingo has made central to the garrison's island wide support concept of the Fort Buchanan Strategic Vision support of Soldiers and their Families in keeping with the Army Family Covenant intent.

"Army Strategic Imperatives supported by Installation Management Command and implemented by its installations, including Fort Buchanan, go hand in hand with the Army's Family and Community Covenants. We sustain our Soldiers and Families by resourcing and standardizing major family programs conducive to the

See Speech ————— **Page 13**



Photos by Marc McCormick

Col. Edwin C. Domingo, commanding officer, Fort Buchanan, spoke to 1st Mission Support Command Family Readiness Group members about Army Values and the Army Family Covenant.



FROM THE COMMANDER:



Col. Edwin C. Domingo
Garrison Commander

September —
Remembering
Sept. 11

This month marks the seventh anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, it is important to remember and honor the memory of every person lost on that day.

Sept. 11th changed America in a lot of ways but it also brought out the tremendous strength of the American people.

Sept. 11th is a day when Americans lost mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, friends and colleagues.

They came from different cultures, from different places and different backgrounds.

But what united them all was that they had hopes and dreams that were their own, and they had the right and the opportunity to pursue them.

Somewhere, among those gathered in America on Sept. 11th, to mark the seventh anniversary of terrorist attack, are the children who lost a mother or father in those attacks and soon they'll reach adulthood.

And what might they ask of us?

They will likely want to know why this terrible thing

that's so difficult to explain happened.

It is hard for free people to comprehend the mix of extremism and hatred that leads terrorists to murder innocent men, women and children.

But perhaps we can tell them this: throughout human history there have been those who seek power through fear and mass murder.

But eventually, all of them — every one — have fallen. They have fallen under the weight of their fanaticism and the courage and the determination of free people.

They might also ask: what did America do to prevail, to keep other children from knowing a dark day when they are told that their mothers or fathers were killed in a terrorist attack?

Let us hope that what we tell them will be the truth: that we fought fanaticism and terrorism on every front.

That we did not cower, we did not compromise or wait in fear hoping they would not strike again.

We will tell them we did everything that was required,

everything that was possible, no matter how difficult the task, and no matter how long it took. We will also tell them Americans displayed resolute courage that has defined our country through the generations. The courage that led the first citizen Soldiers to defend their homes at Lexington and Concord; that turned companies of strangers into bands of brothers at Normandy and Iwo Jima; and the courage that pressured the Iron Curtain to collapse and the Berlin Wall to crumble.

Today history is being written by the valiant men and women of America's armed forces and by determined citizens who will do all they can to win this test of wills — for that's what it is — to keep our children from experiencing the heartbreak and terror of September 11th again.

September 11th bought forth tremendous strengths from our servicemembers. We ask a lot of those who wear our uniform. We ask them to leave their loved ones, to travel great distances, to risk injury, even to be prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice of their lives. They are dedicated,

they are honorable, and they represent the best of our country. They are courageous men and women who are better trained and have more combat experience than any Soldiers in history. Our Soldier today doesn't train for possible deployment to an unknown destination; they train for the realities of imminent combat in Iraq or Afghanistan. They train on such battlefield operations as counterinsurgency tactics at full spectrum training facilities.

On Oct. 7, 2001, Operation Enduring Freedom commenced to defend not only our precious freedom, but also the freedom of people everywhere to live and raise their children free from fear. The battle for freedom is joined on many fronts.

May God bless all of the families and friends of those who lost their loved ones on September 11th and in the ensuing struggle. You are in our thoughts and prayers. May God bless Puerto Rico and the United States of America.



CSM David Davis
Fort Buchanan
Command Sgt. Maj.

Make no mistake about the meaning of this article. I see far more good in what Soldiers, Sailors, Airman, Marines and Coast Guardsmen do every day than I do

Answers for uniform issues at Fort Buchanan

with the few individuals who believe they are above regulations, standards and military discipline by violating their respective service uniform policies.

Those who time and again meet the standard speak volumes of personal discipline, character, competence, and professionalism. With that in mind, every lapse or failure to do what is right when no one is looking, however small, is an indication of a breakdown in the leadership structure.

Additionally, when an individual is made aware of an infraction, yet continues to ignore the NCO making the on-the-spot correction, is not just guilty of being ignorant and disrespectful, but dishonors the uniform and grade to which they hold.

We're at war folks on two fronts. Every instance of not adhering to the established standard can ardize a sion and itself into problems clude the Soldier, Airman, or Coast men. It's that serious. I can't emphasize this enough. We must never stop holding ourselves and our troops to the established standard.

That said I am often asked about uniform policy and other guidance and thought I would clarify some issues and update you on others.

First and foremost adherence

to standards is a matter of pride and discipline. Soldiers must project a military image that leaves no doubt that they live by a common military standard which are non-negotiable and clearly articulated in Army regulations. We do not modify standards or change standards, we comply with standards — officer and enlisted alike. Noncommissioned Officers are charged and empowered to enforce standards. Let me repeat that another way — NCO's are directed to enforce standards. Regardless of your grade or position, if you're stopped by a Sergeant/E5, a Staff Sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class or Master Sergeant regarding an on-the-spot correction, don't give them grief, just make the correction and move out. For

Sergeants to thrive, it is incumbent upon us as senior leaders to remember our duty in growing sergeants. We need to hold ourselves accountable and lead by example demonstrating the standard in all that we do. This leading by example empowers the young NCO to enforce standards on their small piece of the Army. NCO's are the front-line in enforcing and reinforcing our institutional values. They make it happen — they inspire Soldiers to work toward common goals, lead from the front, and provide what right looks like. When in doubt see your first-line leader or refer to Army Regulation 670-1. But whatever you do, don't disregard a noncommissioned officer by

See Uniform — Page 17



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Johnson reflects on Army career



CW5 Robert Johnson
1st MSC

Happiness can be elusive. For most of us, it's based on the acquisition or removal or something in our lives. Over two years ago, I arrived at Fort Buchanan, after three years with the 335th Theater Signal Command, with two tours to the desert during my assignment there. The happiness I found here at Fort Buchanan has been made available through my daily visits to the gym and playing ball with the younger guys.

During my assignment these past two years with the 1st Mission Support Command, and now heading into retirement, I am often mistaken for Chief Johnson, the "other Chief Johnson." I tell them he is the young guy with all the hair.

Our emotional wholeness, the state of contentment that so many of us spend years and thousands of dollars trying to find-is already within our reach. True happiness comes from the realization that God has already made available everything we will ever need. I begin by thanking God for what I already have; I express my gratitude for the health and laughter of my Soldiers and civilians I encounter on a

daily basis at Fort Buchanan.

Once in a while, you get the opportunity to meet and greet the old Soldier — "Soldier, where is your headgear?" Why are your hands in your pockets?" "What unit are you in?"; and, "pass your I.D. card to me."

I thank God for my Soldiers who appreciate and accept me for who I am, and for the strength and energy I am able to summon to meet them each day. Tens of thousands of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines are serving this great nation. When the Pentagon announced a few months ago that it would call up Marine Reservists, one veteran declared the move, "one of the last steps before resorting to a draft."

Well, I was drafted into the Army in 1966 and departed in 1968, a very long time ago. After almost 14 years later, I joined the Army Reserve, and I have strong convictions concerning duty to our nation. I believe no draft will be necessary because the majority of personnel serving have found happiness and many live the Army Values in all aspects of their lives.

As I pack up my final rucksack and prepare to leave Puerto Rico and the Army, a part of me will always look back to the days at Fort Buchanan, Fort Sam Houston, Fort Benning, Fort Stewart, Fort Bliss, Fort Rucker, Fort Jackson, Fort Indiantown Gap, Fort McPherson, Fort Rucker, Fort Mc Coy, Fort Bragg, Fort Lee, Fort Hunter Liggett, Fort Gillem, Fort Gordon, Fort McCellum, Fort Hood, Red Stone Arsenal, Central and South America, Germany and Vietnam. My prayer of thanks usually gives me the clarity to see that the problems I had originally wanted to solve aren't that big of a deal, because God has already given me what really matters. This quotation from Alice Walkers say it all, "Don't wait around for other people to be happy for you, any happiness you get, you've got to make yourself."

1st MSC in the news...

- Direct commissioning, Pg. 18.
- Info. Mgt. Support, Pg. 18.
- New York Rotary briefing, Pg. 19.
- Marriage Enhancement, Pg. 19.
- Operation Patriot Warrior, Pg. 20.

Lt. Col. Luis Pomaes, operations officer, 166th Regional Support Group, administers the Commissioned Officer's Oath of Office to Staff Sgt. Jay Rodriguez-Bonano as his spouse, Laura Frontera stands by his side. Rodriguez will now serve as the Operation Officer for the 346th Transportation Company.



Capt. Anthony John

Domestic Violence Prevention Month — The Perfect Combination for Prevention

Col. Edwin C. Domingo
Fort Buchanan Commanding Officer

Our Fort Buchanan Family depends on the Four Cornerstones of Army Well Being: To Serve, To Live, To Connect and To Grow. Domestic Abuse undermines Army Well Being.

We need all Soldiers, Civilians, Family members and retirees at this installation to dedicate themselves to the prevention of domestic abuse.

And we need the commitment of the community at large to collaborate with us in the prevention of domestic abuse. In this high-stress/up-tempo environment, we need our community to recognize —

- The commitment Soldiers and Family members are making every day.
- The strength of Soldiers comes from the strength of their Families.
- The strength of Families is supported by the strength of the community.
- The strength of the community comes from the support of employers, educators, civic and business leaders and its citizens.

Our Army Community Service works everyday to build community partnerships that support the self-reliance, resiliency and readiness of Soldiers and their Family members during times of war and peace. This is the power to prevent domestic abuse. Soldiers, Families and community — working together they form The Perfect Combination for Prevention.

In the Fort Buchanan Community the Army Family Advocacy Program is charged with the mission of prevention. If you have questions, contact the Family Advocacy Program Manager at 787-707-3709.

I call upon every Soldier, all Families, and the total community to become a part of The Perfect Combination for Prevention. To reinforce that commitment, I hereby declare October 2008 to be Domestic Abuse Prevention Month at Fort Buchanan.

Edwin C. Domingo
COL, FA
Commanding



National alcohol, drug recovery month begins

Myrna M. Llanos
ASAP Prevention Education

As many as 22.6 million people aged 12 or older in the United States are currently facing a substance use disorder, according to the latest national figures.

This is more than the number of people living with coronary heart disease, cancer, or Alzheimer's disease combined. Four million of those with a substance use disorder have made the courageous choice to seek out the treatment they need and embark on a path of recovery.

We need to recognize the achievements of those who seek treatment services, celebrate their successes, and find help for those still in need.

Treatment and long-term recovery from substance use disorders can offer people a

renewed outlook on life.

These disorders also take a toll on the families of these individuals, as well as the communities in which they live.

It is critical to offer people and their families the treatment and recovery support they need for substance use disorders so they may lead more productive and fulfilling lives, personally and professionally.

Research shows that substance use disorders are medical conditions that can be effectively treated.

Treatment for substance use disorders is just as effective as treatments for other chronic conditions, such as high blood pressure, asthma, and diabetes.

By educating our community members that substance use disorders are a treatable, yet serious health care problem, and by treating them like

other chronic diseases, we can improve the quality of life of the entire community.

Studies have consistently found that individualized treatment is essential for people to be successful in their path of recovery.

There are forums where individuals can share their real stories of long-term recovery, which inspire others in need to ask for help and improve their own lives, the lives of their families, and the community as a whole.

September is National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month (Recovery Month).

This year's Recovery Month theme, "Join the Voices for Recovery: Real People, Real Recovery," encourages us all to learn how to help those suffering from substance use disorders and their families receive

treatment so our community can continue to benefit from their contributions.

The *Recovery Month* effort aims to promote the societal benefits of alcohol and drug use disorder treatment, laud the contributions of treatment providers and promote the message that recovery from alcohol and drug use disorders in all its forms is possible.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, and the Ft. Buchanan Army Substance Abuse Program support this campaign.

We welcome your participation in Recovery Month. Look for information and seek help for yourself or your loved one if needed.



For more information contact —
• Ft. Buchanan Army Substance Abuse Program @ 707-

3126. All inquiries are treated as confidential.

ASAP Staff —
• Gisela Aponte, Alcohol and Drug Control Officer.

• Myrna Llanos, Prevention Coordinator.

• José Berrios, Drug Testing Coordinator.



Army to implement DIMHRS system

Luis Comas
Ft. Buchanan Human Resources

What is DIMHRS?

The Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System is a congressionally-mandated enterprise solution with efforts spearheaded by the Department of Defense focusing on the Army's personnel and pay functionality.

DIMHRS will provide the Army with an integrated, multi-component, personnel and pay system.

The personnel and pay functionality addresses major deficiencies in the delivery of military personnel and pay services, such as incorrect pay and inaccurate credit of service, which are caused by myriad systems with multiple complex interfaces.

DIMHRS will provide each servicemember with a single, comprehensive record of service that will feature a self-service capability allowing individuals to update select personal information.

Personnel records will be available to human resources professionals, combatant commanders, personnel and pay managers and other authorized users throughout the Army.

This web-based human resources tool will be available 24 hours a day.

Why is DIMHRS needed?

The Army needs an integrated personnel and pay system, and the Army has concluded that DIMHRS is the most viable and cost-effective tool to support the more than 1.3 million Active, Reserve, and National Guard Service Members.

Currently, there are separate human resource systems for each Army component.

There are hundreds of redundant systems, databases, and interfaces. These systems with multiple interfaces cause several deficiencies, including —

- The inability to track Active Component and Reserve Component status changes.
- Lack of a single, comprehensive personnel record of service; inconsistent processes and data.
- Lack of adequate security.

Also, pay is not directly tied to personnel transactions. This disconnect results in personnel and pay inefficiencies and inaccuracies and redundant data capture.

DIMHRS will provide —

- Close to real-time personnel information at all levels simultaneously.
- Reduced amount of time S1/G1s spend on reworking and responding to basic information requests.
- Self-service capabilities to allow servicemembers to spend less time away from their units while completing real-time transactions.

• Timely pay processing.

What are the goals of DIMHRS?

DIMHRS goals are to —

- Deliver key personnel functions and to integrate personnel and pay seamlessly.
- Reduce stove-piped legacy systems to create more streamlined systems to support the military mission and personnel transformation goals.
- Provide better integrated HR service to the servicemember and their family.
- Continuously evolve to meet the needs of the servicemember and the Army.

What is the value of DIMHRS to the Army?

By implementing an integrated personnel and pay system, the Army is enhancing its capabilities that ensure accuracy, timeliness and accountability for all Army components throughout the entire Army life cycle.

DIMHRS will allow commanders and leaders to more easily identify and allocate their human resources.

What is DIMHRS replacing and how did you come up with the subsumed systems list?

DIMHRS is subsuming approximately 74 systems or databases.

The list was developed through the assessment - if a system is 75 percent covered through DIMHRS, then the system will be subsumed.

If we need the other 25 percent, we will either reengineer that functionality or figure out a way to include it in DIMHRS. It is cheaper to reengineer functionality versus keeping a system that is primarily outdated. DIMHRS will not be implemented incrementally.

There will be no grandfather clause in place to provide redundancy on legacy systems. The legacy systems will not be dismantled until there has been a burn-in period for DIMHRS. The two systems will not run together as people do not have time for dual entry.

There is a year systems testing process in place that should alleviate many potential issues before the actual turn-key implementation. During testing, many divisions of active-duty servicemembers will be using the new system in order to get used to it during the testing phase and to see if there are any issues not recognized prior to testing. This testing period should help ensure accurate and efficient implementation.

There is a plan for a contact center to be in place at HRC for about 90 days or so to provide technical support for any central Army DIMHRS issues.

Will the Army Reserve or the Army National Guard have access?

Yes. DIMHRS is designed for use by all Army components. One of the objectives of DIMHRS is to integrate personnel and pay data across all components.

Will DIMHRS be able to identify duty status issues that affect deployment or assignment?

Yes.

When will Army DIMHRS be deployed?

Army DIMHRS is scheduled to be deployed across all components in 2008.

How many of our organizations will be using DIMHRS?

Everyone in uniform will be touching DIMHRS, especially due to the self-service nature of the software.

How will this transformation affect the MOS 42 and 43 career fields?

Currently, 42F remains in the Army inventory as an MOS. Analysis is being conducted on the impact of DIMHRS and specialized training requirements (such as DIMHRS administrator). That analysis could possibly affect either 42F training or 42F as an MOS.

How will DIMHRS affect retirees?

They will not be paid from DIMHRS unless they are recalled onto active duty. Retiree pay will remain a responsibility of DFAS. There will be no changes to Retiree pay as a result of the implementation of DIMHRS.

Will DIMHRS be able to track pay inquiries?

Yes.



Leave accrual policy change

El Morro Staff

This message announces the recent changes to law (title 10 and title 37, USC) contained in the 2008 NDAA regarding the retention, use and sell back of Soldiers annual leave.

Significant changes to military leave have been established in Sections 551 and 552 of the 2008 NDAA (reference (a)). these changes must be implemented immediately to conform to the time-sensitive leave related provisions of the law. It is essential that Army commands, Army service component commands, direct reporting units, joint organizations and other Army components promulgate these changes to the maximum extent possible for the benefit of all Soldiers.

This message applies to all Soldiers, and is effective immediately and retroactive to the date of the 2008 NDAA enactment in January 28, 2008.

Annual leave accrual — annual leave accrual carryover is temporarily increased (until December 31, 2010) from 60 days to 75 days. Soldiers may now carryover into the new fiscal year up to 75 days of annual leave, beginning with the fiscal year changeover from FY08 to FY09 on October 1, 2008 (i.e. a Soldier with 75 days of annual leave on September 30, 2008 will not lose that leave on October 01, 2008).

Special leave accrual — SLA retention limits are increased. Under the new limitations, SLA earned in a hostile fire/imminent danger pay area (combat zone) is retained for 4 fiscal years instead of 3 fiscal years. SLA earned in "direct support" of a contingency operation is retained for 2 subsequent fiscal years instead of 1 fiscal year after the fiscal year leave is earned.

Sell back of SLA — An additional one-time SLA sell back is authorized for enlisted Soldiers (does not apply to officers). Under this provision an enlisted Soldier may elect a one time leave sell back of up to 30 days leave that is in excess of the 120 day SLA limitation. Such leave sell back counts against the 60 day leave sell back limitation during a Soldier's military career. This provision has no termination date. A Defense Finance and Accounting Service electronic message to all defense military paying offices will provide procedures for processing requests for leave sell back. Soldiers should contact their local PSNCO to make a DMPO appointment for sell back of SLA in excess of 120 days.

Special rest and recuperation — The SR&R for Soldiers extending duty at a designated location (overseas tour under the overseas tour extension incentive program) has increased from 15 days to 20 days. This authorized SR&R absence with transportation benefit applies to personnel completing an overseas tour extension longer than 12 months. This SR&R authorization is distinct from and not to be confused with the rest and recuperation program in paragraph 6.15 of reference (d) and e. this provision has no termination date.

The functional proponent is Mrs. McClelland, dsn 221-9005 or commercial (703) 325-9005. For more information by e-mail is brenda.mcclelland@hoffman.army.mil.

Beware of CAC card scam

El Morro Staff

There was an issue reported to Robins Air Force Base concerning the scanning of Active Duty member's Common Access Card to receive military discounts.

DO NOT allow any person in an unofficial government capacity, to take control of, scan, swipe or photocopy your CAC card. This is not only an OPSEC issue but has counter terrorism concerns as well. The specific incident reported was that the Verizon Store within the Warner Robins Circuit City is scanning CAC cards for you to receive a military discount. Most businesses will only ask to see your military ID card as proof of service and that is okay. If a business will not accept that or any other form of proof (i.e. Leave and Earnings Statement - remember, the LES also contains your social security number) then it is suggested to take your business elsewhere or decline the discount.

Everyone likes to save money and most businesses do not have a malicious intent, but the risks are too high.

This incident has been reported to Office of Special Investigations and they are highly interested and investigating the incident(s). If you hear of any other business requiring to scan, swipe or photocopy your CAC, do not hesitate to report it to your local servicing agency.





Elections approaching — vote early

Cristino Lozada Cruz
Ft. Buchanan DHR

Want to vote in the upcoming General Election? To vote absentee as a Uniformed Service member, family member, or an overseas citizen, Now is the time to register and request an absentee ballot for the November 4, 2008 election.

To register and request an absentee ballot, just fill out the Voter Registration/Ballot Request Form (Federal Post Card Application, FPCA, SF 76) and send it to your local election office.

To fill out the Voter Registration/ Ballot Request Form, go to Web site www.fvap.gov.

You'll notice the Web site is comprehensively redesigned. Its design was based on user feedback and focus group studies and is very easy-to-use. The site has state-specific instructions for all states and territories covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. There, you'll find detailed and easy-to-follow instructions for filling out your Voter Registration/Ballot Request Form, along with information on where to send it.

We also encourage you to use our new automated tool to fill out the Voter Registration/Ballot Request Form. Find it by clicking on the link in the Quick Links section of our homepage. This tool will guide you through completion of the form using only the specific information your state requires. In participating states and jurisdictions, you may also be able to send the Form to your local election office and receive your blank ballot via a secure server.

You can also pick up a Voter Registration/ Ballot Request Form from your VAO or nearest U.S. Consulate or Embassy.

Be prepared for late state primaries and the general election.

While the Presidential Primaries have ended, many states still hold state primaries late into

the summer. In these primaries, you can vote for your party's candidates for federal offices, such as senators and members of the House of Representatives. You may also be able to vote for state and local election officials.

Louisiana holds its congressional primary on October 4, 2008 and is just one of 18 states and territories holding late summer primaries. Due to these elections close proximity to the General Election, problems could potentially arise in getting military and overseas citizens their ballots in time for the General Election.

In order to ensure that military members, their dependents, and U.S. citizens residing overseas from these states and territories can vote in the General Election and have their vote counted, the Military Postal Service Agency and FVAP recommend these citizens use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot for the November 4, 2008 election.

The MPSA recommends that citizens voting from states and territories with late primaries mail the FWAB by October 7,

2008 from Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom locations and by October 14, 2008 from all other overseas locations to ensure their ballot is received by local election offices in time for the November 4, 2008 General Election.

Hard copies of the FWAB are available at military installations from your Unit or Installation Voting Assistance Officer, from the nearest Embassy or Consular office, and from many organizations of U.S. citizens overseas. An on-line version of the FWAB is available with easy-to-read instructions at Web site www.fvap.gov.

States and territories with late primaries include — Alaska, Arizona, District of Columbia, Delaware, Florida, Guam, Hawaii, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Virgin Islands, Vermont, Wisconsin, Washington, and Wyoming.



VA implements pay changes

El Morro Staff

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, Section 642 expanded the eligibility requirements for Concurrent Retirement Disability Payment.

Retirees who were rated by the Department of Veterans Affairs as unemployable, generally referred to as Individual Unemployability, and are a recipient of DVA disability compensation as a result of IU, will become eligible to receive full concurrent receipt of both their DVA compensation and retired pay.

This section of the Act is effective Oct. 1, 2008 and is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2005.

To qualify for CRDP entitlement, the retiree must have 20 years of service or retired under Temporary Early Retirement Authority, must be in receipt of retired pay, in receipt of DVA compensation, rated 50 percent or higher by DVA.

Those rated by the DVA as IU are compensated at the 100 percent rate in accordance with the DVA disability compensation basic rates.

Payment is not a separate payment but reduces the dollar-for-dollar offset that retirees give up for every dollar they receive from the DVA.

This will eliminate the offset and give retirees in this category all of their retired pay and they will continue to receive the additional compensation as they have been all along.

In addition, to receive the additional compensation amount, the retiree must be receiving compensation at a disability rating not less than 60 percent and be rated IU.

Retirees will not need to take any action in order to receive this increased benefit amount.

The Defense Finance and Ac-



File Photo

counting Service receive the information from the DVA on a regular basis.

The current monthly entitlement will begin in October 2008.

It is estimated that 50,000 people are eligible to receive these increased payment amounts.

DFAS is currently on schedule to issue the larger monthly payment amounts beginning with the Nov. 3, 2008 payments.

Payments issued after Nov. 3, 2008 will represent the entitlement effective Oct. 1, 2008.

DFAS is also scheduled in Oct. 2008 to begin making the retroactive payments which can be computed back to Jan. 1, 2005.

DFAS will communicate when all eligible CRDP recipients can expect their retroactive payments nearer to the Oct. 1, 2008 effective date.

As of Nov. 1, 2008, an eligible retiree will receive full retired pay and VA compensation.

BOSS program comes to Fort Buchanan

Sgt. 1st Class Africa Thomas
Ft. Buchanan ILO

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers is back by popular demand to Fort Buchanan. As the newly appointed President, let me take a minute to tell you about the BOSS program and its purpose!

What is BOSS?

BOSS is an energetic program that single Soldiers can participate in to enhance their well being, contribute to their community through community service activities, and assist in the planning and execution of their own recreation and leisure events.

Who can participate in BOSS?

The BOSS program focuses on the Army active duty single Soldier, AGR single Soldier, geographical bachelors, and AGR National Guard.

However, BOSS activities are open to all MWR patrons to include all branches of service, Department of Defense civilians, Foreign Service members and married personnel.

Anyone can participate with the BOSS program.

What are the BOSS core components and how does it enhance Soldiers' readiness?

Quality of Life — The BOSS program is a vehicle by which quality of life issues are brought from the Soldier to the chain of command for resolutions.

Quality of life issues are normally resolved at the lowest level if possible.

If not, then they are turned over to the garrison command sergeant



major and the commanding officer.

Community Service — BOSS representatives select community activities to participate in which will improve the quality of life for others in the community.

The BOSS mission is to build a of cohesion, rapport, and commitment within the surrounding community.

Recreation and Leisure — BOSS activities are planned by the BOSS committee with input for the single Soldiers and geographical bachelors.

We also partner with the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation.

In closing, I am asking every Active Duty, AGR, Reserve or National Guard single Soldier and geographical bachelor to participate in a short survey on the Fort Buchanan Web site www.buchanan.army.mil.

It is important that you complete the survey to ensure a productive and vital BOSS STRONG program here on Fort Buchanan.

For more information, feel free to contact me at (787) 209-4094 with any questions or concerns and suggestions. Together we can make the BOSS program a success.



SFC Africa Thomas
BOSS President

\$2,000 REFERRAL BONUS

— Soldiers, Future Soldiers, or Retirees can make the referral through the ARS-SMART website:

<https://www.usarec.army.mil/smart/> or through the US Army Recruiting Command toll free line

1-800-223-3735 extension 6-0473. — Person making referral will be required to set up a user account via AKO prior to making referral.

For further assistance, contact your nearest Army Recruiter or call: (787) 781-6100/7042 or (787) 882-0765/0766



ARMY STRONG.



Burgos repeats as DeCa scholarship winner

Marc McCormick
El Morro

Each year the defense Commissary Agency awards scholarships to students worldwide. The students participate in an essay contest and the winner is well rewarded.

This year's theme was – "Every able-bodied citizen should be required to serve for a two year period of time in the military – what or why not?"

The Fort Buchanan winner of the essay contest was a repeat from last year, Héctor Daniel Burgos. He will receive a scholarship award of \$1,500.

In his essay, Burgos wrote, "In the United States there have been questions over whether serving in the military can truly be considered volunteer or conscription. The increasing emphasis on technological firepower and the sheer unlikelihood of a conventional military assault, as well as memories of the contentiousness of the Vietnam War experience, make conscription unlikely in the foreseeable future."

It is an interesting and contemporary question Burgos addresses. The idea of national service or military service cyclically raises itself in our political dialogue. Each of the present presidential candidates have floated the idea and the current president offered the idea as part of his campaign platform when he was first running for office. However, in no meaningful way has the idea been put into reality for a very good reason – the volunteer armed forces.

The volunteer Army, as the military establishment in general is called, makes the point moot. The services contend they are at the strength necessary to maintain the missions assigned to them and retention rates are stable. The essay idea may be more esoteric in nature.

In a sweeping generalization, Burgos says, "Each passing generation produces teenagers who are more and more brazen,



Photos by Leo Martinez

Hector D. Burgos, second from left, shows the certificate congratulating him for winning the 2008 DeCa scholarship. Fort Buchanan Commanding Officer Col. Edwin C. Domingo; Angelika Torres, representing Wrigley Co.; Buchanan Commissary Manager Reno P. Nolletti and Master Sgt. William Russell presented the award.

disrespectful, lazy and ill-qualified for success in the real world. Thus, our society becomes more dangerous, depleted and dishonest every year.

With one – albeit radical – move the United States government could eliminate these problems and help our new generations and our country reach their potential. Mandatory military service, or conscription, could cure many of our societal ills and allow American teenagers to truly reach their potential." Burgos also proposes a method to implement such a system.

In conclusion, Burgos agrees with the proposition that everyone should spend 2 years in the military service of their choice. "I have to agree with the premise that every able-bodied citizen should be required to serve for a 2 year period of time in the military. They become physically fit, mentally strong and knowledgeable in multiple areas. They learn how to work hard, discipline themselves, think on their feet and lead their peers. Most importantly, they come away from the military with skills that benefit society, the workplace and their families."

Scholarships for Military Children Program announces 2008 winners

DeCa Public Affairs

FORT LEE, Va. — Money is tight, most people would agree; hence the news that 600 children of military families have been selected to receive a \$1,500 scholarship each to put toward the college or university of their choice is sure to elicit cheers and applause from their families.

The scholarships are part of the Scholarships for Military Children Program.

The local winner announced by William Roger, Jr., Store Director at Fort Buchanan Commissary, is: Hector D. Burgos from San Juan, Puerto Rico.

"We're excited to report that the scholarship program continues to be a success in helping military families defray the costs of education," said Defense Commissary Agency Chief Operating Officer Richard S. Page. The full list of scholarship recipients and sponsoring business partners is posted online at Web site www.militaryscholar.org.

September '08 case lot sale promises bulk sizes for less

Kevin L. Robinson
DeCa Public Affairs

FORT LEE, Va. — For most folks, September means the return of school bells for students and football for sports fans. For commissary customers, that page on the calendar also means a worldwide case lot sale in their community.

This year, the Defense Commissary Agency's September worldwide case lot sale promises to continue a trend of record numbers of customers taking advantage of savings up to 50 percent or more on bulk-sized products. These items range from canned goods, beverages, toilet paper, paper towels, produce, fresh meat, seafood, pet supplies, cleaning and laundry products, and more.

"As far as our military members and their families are concerned, these sales events help them extend their commissary benefit even further," said DeCA's director and chief executive officer, Philip E. Sakowitz Jr. "The crowds we see during case lot weekends in either May or September tell us that saving big bucks isn't lost on our customers."

Generally, the products are seen stretched out in a section of a commissary parking lot or inside a store warehouse. Some 50-60 percent of the items are sold in "club pack" product assortments similar to the sold at commercial warehouse

Last year's sale set an all-time September 2006 sale by 10 percent sold with sales of about \$13.8

"Case lot sales have truly ers," said Charlie Dowlen, DeCA children going back to school, opportunity to save money.

This event offers that and then some." Dowlen expects the larger commissaries stateside will offer about 100 more items compared to what was on the list for the May case lot sale. Although some stores, such as smaller commissaries in the U.S. and commissaries on installations outside of the continental U.S. will carry a more limited selection, all stores will offer customers the massive savings associated with these events, he added.

Most commissaries hold case lot sales but schedule them on different weekends throughout September.

To find out when your commissary is hosting a sale, go to the special case lot sale Web site at www.commissaries.com/case_lot_sale.cfm.



AAFES gas stations extend discount to drivers using Military StarSM Card

AAFES Public Affairs

DALLAS — Army & Air Force Exchange Service gas stations in the Continental United States, Alaska and Puerto Rico are being programmed to reflect a discount of three cents a gallon for drivers who pay with a Military StarSM Card.

"Anytime a customer uses a bank issued debit or credit card, the retailer pays a portion of the transaction to a third party financial institution," said AAFES' Chief of Corporate Communications Lt. Col. Dean Thurmond.

"Because the Military StarSM Card is administered by the Exchange Credit Program, AAFES is not subject to the additional fees incurred through other pay at the pump options. As a result, we're able to pass savings on to authorized exchange shoppers," he said.

The three cent a gallon discount is currently being applied to transactions at 13 installations (Minneapolis-St. Paul JARS, Columbus AFB, Redstone Arsenal, Ft. Indiantown Gap, Fort Gordon, Patrick AFB, Robins AFB, USMA, Laughlin AFB,

Yuma Proving Ground, Mountain Home AFB and Nellis AFB, MacDill, Scott, JRB Carswell). All remaining facilities in CONUS, Alaska and Puerto Rico (177 facilities) will receive software upgrades and are expected to begin applying the three cent a gallon discount.

"I encourage drivers during the first week or so of this new effort, to touch base with the attendant at their local gas station to ensure the software upgrades have taken effect before fueling up," said Thurmond.

"As is the case with anything technical, we expect a few glitches could occur during the first few weeks of the program," he continued.

Officials hope to extend the Military StarSM Card three cent a gallon discount at all AAFES facilities, but do not have a time table for worldwide implementation at this time.

"This effort is a priority of AAFES command," said Thurmond.

"Entire teams are dedicated to working through the technical challenges to extend the Military StarSM Card discount to drivers at all AAFES locations," he said.



Friends and family proudly participate in the awarding of the 2008 DeCa Scholarship to Hector D. Burgos. Observing the ceremony were, left to right, Store Manager Elsie Garcia; Commissary Manager Reno P. Nolletti; Fort Buchanan Commanding Officer Col. Edwin C. Domingo; scholarship winner Hector D. Burgos; Angelika Torres representing Wrigley brothers an Acosta Company who co-sponsored the scholarship; Burgos' father Master Sgt. (Ret.) Hector Burgos; mother Iris Nereida Ocasio; and Master Sgt. William Russell. Each year dependent students can participate in the Defense Commissary Agency student essay competition and win \$1,500 in prize money.



They said it...

Adria Lucca – Army Community Services: "Soldiers and Families First.....Quality Programs and Service Always. We Serve Families.....Because Our Soldiers Protect our Freedom"



Vacation Bible School — a true safari adventure

Marc McCormick
El Morro

Parents, children and the Fort Buchanan Religious Services Office came together making the 2008 Vacation Bible School held at Fort Buchanan resulting in a huge success.

More than 22 children, along with parents and volunteers participated in Answers in Genesis' "Amazon Expedition, The Ultimate Trek Through Time."

The week long program featured songs, plays and other activities and the core concept focused on the seven Cs.



Karen Malik performs a song about the seven Cs, seen on the wall behind her. Each day she led the children in songs bringing a musical touch to the VBS.

Marc McCormick

As Vera Lawson, the organizer of the VBS said, "The seven Cs are 1. Creation – the creation of the world 6,000 years ago. 2. Corruption – death as a result of original Sin. 3. Catastrophe – when God destroyed the world through flood. 4. Confusion – as exemplified through the Biblical story of the Tower of Babel. 5. Christ – the coming of the Son of God. 6. Cross – the redemption of mankind through the sacrifice of Christ. 7. Consummation – God's remaking of heaven and earth."

"The theme of the program, a trek through time, taught that if you understand certain historical points you will be able to understand not only the past but also the future," she said.

The participants had full days of activities divided between guided learning time, outdoors activities and crafts.

"The children's crafts included making a personal terrarium, frog paper plates (as part of a game), butterfly hats, tic-tac-toe boards and others things," Lawson said.

VBS participants ages ranged between 4-12 and all age groups had activities appropriate for their age group. "The older participants were great help with the younger members," Lawson noted.

After an absence of several years, the renewal of the Vacation Bible School was welcomed by the on and off post participants. Also, as a RSO initiative, a Junior Church has been started. Since June of this year, when sermon time begins during services, the younger members are taken aside for Bible teaching time. Akin to Sunday School, "an adult, with a volunteer, of the congregation, teaches the children principles, morals an ethics laying a foundation of trustworthiness in the Bible," Lawson said.

Also, the Buchanan RSO is offering a Ladies Bible Study every other week and tentatively scheduled is a Father's and Sons Prayer Breakfast on Saturday morning at the Chapel Annex. Call the Religious Services Office at 707-2225 for more information.



Courtesy Photo

(Above) Participants, parents and church members enjoyed the outdoors as well as indoor activities during Vacation Bible School. (Below) Older members of the VBS performed a play acting out scenes each day of the VBS.



School year begins at Fort Buchanan

Parents, teachers and Fort Buchanan come together to promote school safety and address issues of concern among students.

Gladys Colon
Ft. Buchanan

Did you know that the School Liaison Officer assists families stationed at Fort Buchanan, living both on and off post, with school related issues?

School Liaison Services can help with the full range of K-12 schools — public, private, home school — and also with college and trade school information.

The majority of the Army population will encounter issues associated with child care, youth supervision and school transitions.

The extent and quality of services available to assist parents to resolve these issues are critical to the well-being of military families and the Army mission.

For additional information, contact Gladys Colon-Algarin, Community Liaison, Education and Outreach Services director, Bldg. 1020-B or by calling 707-343. Colon can also be reached by email to buchschoolliaison@conus.army.mil.

School safety issues

El Morro Staff

It's about that time of year again — new teachers, new faces, new students, new places.

Soon over 23 million children will be going back to school. Every year during this time, parents spend a lot of time and

money preparing their young people for the upcoming school year.

They buy new clothes, paper, pens, pencils, crayons, notebooks, and numerous other supplies; but how many parents incorporate safety as part of their school preparation?

Unfortunately, during a recent 1-year period, 32 children (ages 14 and under) were killed while an estimated 7,000 more were injured in school bus-related incidents.

Parents, drivers, and students all play an important role in school safety.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, here are some traffic safety rules we can use to help make this school year accident free.

Following these simple, common sense practices will help your children get off to a "safe start" for the upcoming school year.

Parents —

If your children will be riding a bicycle to school ensure they learn and obey the following safety rules.

- Check the bicycles to ensure the brakes and tires are in good condition.
- Always travel in the same direction as vehicular traffic.
- Use proper hand signals for turning.
- Obey all traffic signals and signs.
- Always wear protective gear.
- Choose the safest route.
- Parents, if you are driving, ensure everyone is using their seatbelts.

Drivers —

- When driving or backing up, watch out for children walking or bicycling.
- In neighborhoods or school zones watch for people walking.
- Slow down!
- Watch for children playing at bus stops.

• Learn and obey school bus laws and don't forget the meaning of the bus' flashing lights.

Yellow means preparing to stop, red means stopped for children to get on or off the bus.

• Pasing another vehicle in a school zone is never allowed.

Students —

• Get to the school bus 5 minutes before the bus' arrival and when the bus arrives stay back from it until it comes to a complete stop.

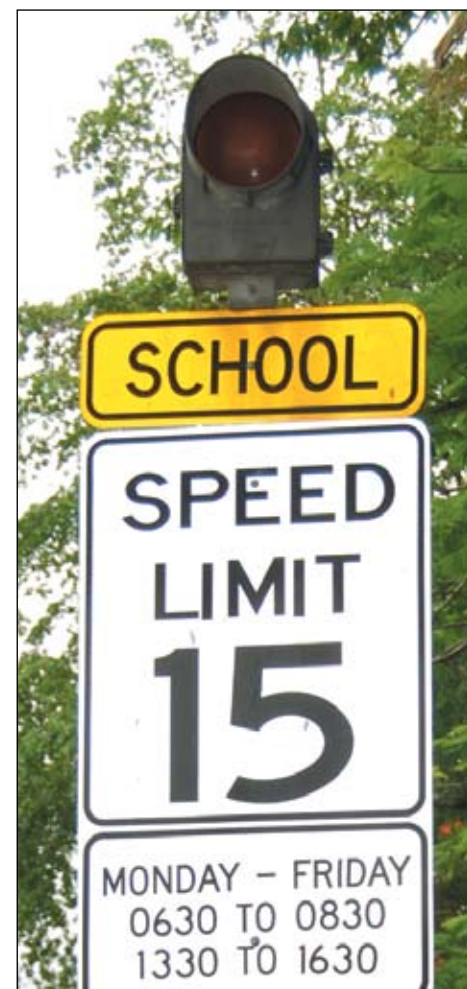
- Do not board until the driver says so.
- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk on the sidewalk well away from the bus so the bus driver is able to see you.

• Use the bus handrails so you don't fall.

- When exiting the bus be careful clothes or bags don't snag on something.
- Never walk behind a bus.
- Never get close to the bus. Stay three steps away.

• If you drop something near the bus, tell the driver.

Never try and retrieve the item without first having the driver to tell you it's okay because he may not be able to see you.





Garrison exhibits 'Best Practices'

Marc McCormick
El Morro

This is the 25th year of the Army Family Action Plan; a plan that has brought significant changes to the lifestyle issues and Army practices for Soldiers and their family. Each year, any stakeholder in the Army has an opportunity to provide suggestions to improve the quality of life and Soldering. Not all suggestions are adopted by the Army but all are given serious consideration. Thinking of the Best Practices component of AFAP as an Army initiative is misleading. It is more than that, procedurally.

Each year, at Fort Buchanan, Ernesto Berrios, the manager of AFAP for Fort Buchanan, uses several methods to encourage members of the Buchanan community to offer their insights and suggestions on better ways to improve the Army system. Think of AFAP as the modeling that lead to the Army Family and Community Covenants, which it is. Around the garrison, you will also find boxes provided for submitting your suggestions and comments.

Berrios then gathers together the submissions and arranges them for sending to the appropriate agency for consideration. The submissions that pertain to Fort Buchanan are submitted to the appropriate director, and, if it cannot be resolved at the directorate level, they are sent on to the garrison commander.

He in turn will make a decision on the remaining submissions. The ones which require consideration for approval by higher authority are then sent on up the chain of command. This is where the path can become divergent.

Some suggestions of merit require approval higher up than the Army. However, all suggestions will track all the way through the Army Chief of Staff. If the Army does not have the authority to approve a suggestion, it is sent on to the Department of Defense. Some suggestions would require changes in law and will go to Congress for legislative consideration if it is beyond DoD's authority.

If the suggestion is eventually approved, at whatever level, it then becomes part of the operating policy of the Army. This is a great method for Army Families, Soldiers, civilian employees and others to make the Army Family Covenant more robust. The guiding principles of the program are –

Serves the global Army family.

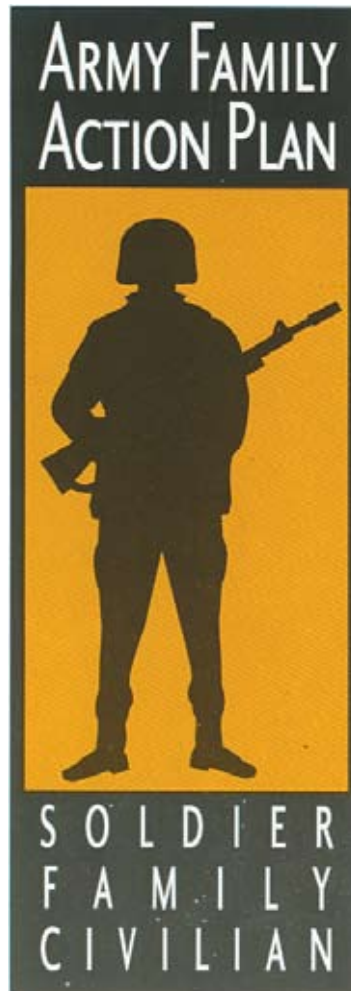
Ensures well-being issues will be surfaced to Army leadership at all levels.

Participants represent the demographic make-up of the Army.

Leadership at all levels ensures that AFAP issues are worked.

AFAP issue progress is reported to Army members on a regular and continuous basis.

As Adria Lucca, who assists program manager Berrios says, "It is a way for people to vocalize their issues for improvements. I believe in the program."



25 years of AFAP program celebrated

Bill Coslow
Army Public Affairs Plans & Outreach

Today and in the coming months, the Army will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the creation of the Army Family Action Plan and leadership's ongoing commitment to families embodied in the Army Family Covenant.

The Army Family Covenant says that Soldiers' strength comes from their Families. It pledges to provide for and support those Families, increase the accessibility and quality of healthcare, improve Soldier and Family housing and standardize and fund Family programs and services.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. John A. Wickham signed a ground breaking white paper titled "The Army Family," on August 15, 1983. It identified the need for the Army to increase support to its families. Gen. Wickham and his staff asserted that a healthy family environment allows Soldiers to concentrate more fully on their mission.

"The readiness of our all-volunteer force depends on the health of the Families," Secretary of the Army Pete Geren said. "I can assure you that your Army leadership understands the important contribution each and every one of you makes. We need to make sure we step up and provide the support Families need so the Army Family stays healthy and ready."

The Army was in transition in 1983 -- the Army was moving from an organization composed mostly of draftees and short-term enlistees, to an all-volunteer, professional force consisting of more than 50 percent married personnel. Wickham set a new vision and course for Army Families that carries on to this day.

AFAP was created with an initial planning conference 1984, the Year of the Army Family. Its mission is to help Army leaders address the needs and concerns of Family members. The program uses family representatives from around the world to identify issues that will improve the standard of living for Soldiers and Families. This feedback to leaders provides for policy changes that become tangible end-products for the Army Family. AFAP beneficiaries include Soldiers, retirees, Department of Army civilian employees and all their Family members.

Delegates meet and vote on the top 5 conference issues every year. These issues are briefed at the next general officer steering committee. The process involves voicing of what's working and what isn't; and provides a recommended solution to fix it. Senior Army leadership is alerted to areas of concern that need their attention.

Six hundred thirty three issues have been identified in the past 24 years. AFAP has driven 101 legislative changes, 147 Army policy and regulatory changes and 165 improved programs and services.

"We recognize what it takes to be an Army Family, and that our Soldiers draw great strength from their Families," said Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey, Jr. said.

Buchanan hosts retirement seminar by Army Benefits Center

Marc McCormick
El Morro

Retirement in some form, comes to all of us. When asked when one should start getting ready for it, Gregory K. Buchanan, human resources supervisor, Army Benefits Center-Civilian said, "from day one."

Buchanan was at the garrison for a week long seminar briefing employees on what to expect when they reach the retirement zone – typically 6 months out from the actual date. "It would pay to start earlier," Buchanan said.

The seminar was a great success with the Buchanan employees. The presentation and materials were clear and concise and Buchanan answered all the employees questions either in class session or privately, whichever the employee chose.

When asked, Buchanan said, "We are planning on having these seminars every other year. In coordination with Teresita (Vera, from the Fort Buchanan Training Office) that seemed to be a good schedule."

Part of the message he brought to the seminar included news of a legislative measure that has passed the House of Representatives and is now being considered by the Senate. "Sick Leave has been approved for retirement by FERS and we should see action by the Senate by 2009," he said.

Other aspects of the seminar included suggestions such as planning for retirement early, "and our goal is five years out," Buchanan said. Also, paying attention to deductions and making final adjustments in such things as the employee's TSP account, life and health insurance and Survivor Benefits, among other.

When asked about the things that could delay payout of benefits or processing of the retiree's package, Buchanan talked about keeping information current.

"There's always changes in the policy process," he said. "An employee can keep up-to-date with policy changes through our Web site."

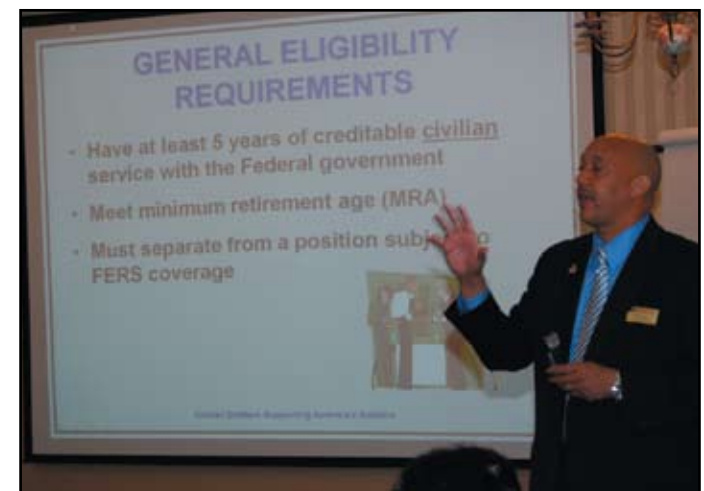
The importance of that is the employee can avoid several common errors that retard the process, such as keeping addresses up-to-date, beneficiaries of insurance and other personal data matters that require currency before retirement packages can be finalized.

There doesn't have to be an intermediate agent to make a lot of changes to the employee's profile. The benefits Web site was retooled in 2008 making it more user friendly and most basic changes can be made by the employee easily.

These sort of changes make the process go easier and quicker, Buchanan said.

"We see problems arise when the employee starts too late (in submitting their package), keeping their records

See Seminar Page 15



Marc McCormick

Gregory K. Buchanan, human resources supervisor, Army benefits Center-Civilians, spent a week at Fort Buchanan informing employees of their retirement benefits. Also featured during the week was a briefing from Victor Rodriguez of the Puerto Rico Social Security Department. This was the first but not the last of visits by the benefits center. All employees were encouraged to begin early preparing for eventual retirement.



Suicide prevention — Buchanan's objective

Myrna Llanos
Ft. Buchanan ASAP

The Fort Buchanan Family is committed to make our installation and community a suicide prevention-aware environment for Soldiers, Families, and Department of the Army Civilians.

The Army remains committed to the safety and well being of its Soldiers, civilians, and families by joining the nation and Department of Defense in observing National Suicide Prevention Week, Sept. 7 - 13, 2008, and the World Suicide Prevention Day on Sept. 10, 2008.

Installation Management Command will join the Army G-1, the Department of Defense and the nation in observing National Suicide Prevention Week.

The Army's theme this year is — "Shoulder to Shoulder: No Soldier Stands Alone."

The campaign requires involvement from all organizations on the garrison.

It encourages participation and support from all individuals at Fort Buchanan, including Soldiers, civilian employees and family members.

The Ft. Buchanan population is encouraged to support this campaign, which marks the beginning of a comprehensive effort aimed at deterring suicides in the Army.

Events throughout the week will emphasize suicide and risk reduction education, awareness and training activities for the entire Ft. Buchanan community.

The following schedule and activities will be taking place at Fort Buchanan.

Sept. 9, 2008: Information Booth - ASAP Staff.
9 - 10 a.m. — RAHC.
10:30 - 11:30 a.m. — Welcome Center.

Sept. 10, 2008: Worldwide Suicide Prevention Day & mandatory training: "Suicide Prevention" by the Chapel Staff. Two sessions — 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. at the Chapel.

Sept. 11, 2008: Information Booth - ASAP Staff.
9 to 10 a.m. — Fitness Center.
10:30 to 11:30 a.m. — PX Lobby.

Life Lines

Army G-1, Army Well Being Liaison Office — 1-800-833-6622.

Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline — 1-800-984-8523.

Emergency — 911.

www.armyfamiliesonline.org — 1-800-833-6622.

www.militaryonesource.com — 1-800-342-9647.

National Suicide Hotline — 1-800-SUICIDE.

www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org — 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

Suicide Prevention Warning Signs Risk Factors

Warnings Signs —

When a Soldier present any combination of the following, the buddy or chain of command should be more vigilant. It is advised that help should be secured for the Soldier.

- Talk of suicide or killing someone.
- Giving away property or disregard for what happens to one's property.
- Withdrawal from friends and activities.
- Problems with girlfriend (boyfriend) or spouse.
- Acting bizarre or unusual (based upon your knowledge of the person.).
- Soldiers in trouble for misconduct (Art. 15, UCMJ, etc.).
- Soldiers experiencing financial problems.
- Soldiers who have lost their job at home. (Reservists).
- Those Soldiers leaving the service (retirements, ETSS, etc.)

When a Soldier presents with any one of these concerns, the Soldier should be seen immediately by a helping provider.

- Talking or hinting about suicide.
- Formulating a plan to include acquiring the means to kill oneself.
- Having a desire to die.
- Obsession with death (music, poetry, artwork).
- Themes of death in letters and notes.
- Finalizing personal affairs.
- Giving away personal possessions.

Risk factors —

Risk factors are those things that increase the probability that difficulties could result in serious adverse behavioral or physical health. The risk factors only raise the risk of an individual being suicidal. It does not mean they are suicidal.

The risk factors are often associated with suicidal behavior include —

- Relationship problems (loss of girlfriend or boyfriend, divorce, etc.).
- History of previous suicide attempts.
- Substance abuse.
- History of depression or other mental illness.
- Family history of suicide or violence.
- Work related problems.
- Transitions (retirement, PCS, discharge, etc.).
- A serious medical problem.
- Significant loss (death of loved ones, loss due to natural disasters, etc.).
- Current or pending disciplinary or legal action.
- Setbacks (academic, career or personal).
- Severe, prolonged, and/or perceived unmanageable stress.
- A sense of powerlessness, helplessness, and/or hopelessness.

Suicidal risk highest when —

- The person sees **no way out** and fears things may get worse.
- The predominant emotions are **hopelessness and helplessness.**
- **Thinking is constricted** with a tendency to perceive his or her situation as all bad.
- Judgment is impaired by use of **alcohol or other substances.**



A.F. Sgt. Shawn Weismiller

A Soldier searches for insurgents and weapons caches in Baqubah, Iraq, Aug. 10. While the Army has looked very closely at the effect deployment and sustained combat operations may have on suicides among Soldiers, no direct relationship among deployment, combat and suicide has yet been found, said Dr. (Col.) Elspeth C. Ritchie, behavioral health psychiatry consultant to the Army's Surgeon General.

NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE

Buddies can Prevent Suicide

Not all Wounds are Visible

Be willing to listen.

It is your responsibility to get help for a fellow Soldier

Talk to your Chaplain or a Behavioral Health Professional or Call Military OneSource 1-800-342-9647
www.militaryonesource.com



Garrison teens complete CYS babysitting course

Gladys Colon
CLEOS Manager

Child and Youth Services conducted a babysitter course on July 30-31 for youth from military and civilian families.

"By participating in the Babysitter Program, teenagers can earn key life skills and gain a sense of responsibility," said Carmen Hernandez, CYS Training and Curriculum Specialist, who facilitated the course to the youth.

Youth are able to increase their community involvement through the Babysitter Program, assisting parents in need of trained childcare providers. "Babysitters in the program are trained to provide age-appropriate care and resolve any potentially dangerous situation," she said.

During the course graduation, the youth talked about what they learned and received certificates and materials that can be utilized when they babysit.

"This particular group of youth was very motivated to learn," Hernandez said. A Babysitter Referral List is maintained at the CYS Central Registration Office located at Bldg. 1020-A. This is a list of teen babysitters who have been certified in Babysitter Training, and it is available to both military and civilian employees upon request.

CYS offers the Babysitter Training Course twice a year. Youth must be 13 years of age or older to enroll in the course.



Courtesy Photos

(Left to right) Carmen Hernandez, Child, Youth Services trainer, taught Sarah Fernandez, Vivian Garcia, Emil Martinez, Kimberly Ortiz, Nicole Ortega, Karla Nickels, Leyla Barrientos, Cristian Nickels, Mark Lawson and Nerilu Colon during the CYS Babysitting Course. To babysit on post, teens must be certified.




(Top) CYS uses American Red Cross materials to assist in teaching babysitting techniques.



(Upper right) Child Development Center Manager Carmen Dieppa, Nicole Ortega and Carmen Hernandez.

(Right) Students not only learned mundane chores such as diaper changing but also how to administer CPR for babies.

Child Development Center Part- Day Preschool Survey

Child and Youth Services is conducting a survey to identify the need for a Part Day Preschool program for children ages 3 & 4 at Fort Buchanan, from 0800 to 1100 .

**** Fees will be based on total family income. ****

Are you interested in enrolling your child in a Part-Day Preschool program? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please return this survey to the CYS Central Registration Office by FAX at 787-707-3392, in person at Bldg. 1020-A or by e-mail to gladys.colon1@conus.army.mil

eKnowledge, NFL Players extend multi-million dollar SAT/ACT program donation

El Morro Staff

eKnowledge Corporation and a group of National Football League players have decided to extend their multi-million dollar free donation of SAT and ACT PowerPrep test preparation programs valued at \$200.00 to military servicemembers and their families for another year.

Those who request the free SAT/ACT products pay only a small fee to package, process and ship the products anywhere in the world.

eKnowledge, with the support of a group of NFL players, decided to provide the SAT/ACT PowerPrep Programs free

to military service members and their dependents.

All active duty military service members, veterans and their dependents who would like to receive this free eKnowledge SAT/ACT PowerPrep program should visit the new Web site www.eknowledge.com/military.

Requests can also be made by directly contacting eKnowledge at 951-256-4076 or email support@eknowledge.com.

For additional information you can contact Gladys Colon-Algarin, Community Liaison, Education and Outreach Services Director at 707-3434 or e-mail buchschoolliaison@conus.army.mil.



At no cost to the individual or their organization, all active duty Soldiers, members of the National Guard Reserves, civilian employees and USMA and ROTC cadets are authorized to access over 1,500 Information technology, business skills and interpersonal skills courses, desktop computer skills, Microsoft operating systems to human resources, management and leadership as well as foreign languages from any location, around the clock 24x7. All you need to do is get an AKO account and register. If you have any questions, call 787-707-3888 or 3546.



Fort Buchanan supports 1st MSC FRG initiative



Photos by Marc McCormick

Col. Miguel A. Issac, Chief of Staff, 1st Mission Support Command, thanks Fort Buchanan Commanding Officer Col. Edwin C. Domingo for his support of the 1st MSC Family Readiness Group program. Domingo presented the featured speech at the gathering of 1st MSC family members and Soldiers held at the Caribe Hilton Hotel.



Colonels Domingo and Issac took time before the official start of the activity to speak with members attending the FRG briefing.



Photos by Capt. Anthony John

Staff Sgt. Thania Cesareo, postal clerk, 271st Human Resource Company, who recently returned from an Operation Iraqi Freedom deployment two weeks ago and Sgt. Reina Cruz, personnel specialist, 613th Military Police Company, Aguadilla and Maj. Juan A. Quintero, Officer in Charge, Family Readiness Programs registration process assist attendees of the 1st MSC FRG seminar.

Signing in for the event are Lt. Col. Cosme Torres, executive officer, 210 Regional Support Group; Judith Rodriguez, spouse of 210th RSG CSM Dennis Cintron; Sgt. Alberto Rodriguez, 266th Ordnance Company; Rochely Reyes Rivera, 6-month daughter of deployed Operation Enduring Freedom Soldier Sgt. Rolando Reyes Rivera, 268th Transportation Company, and Shirley Rivera, spouse of Sgt. Rolando Reyes Rivera, with the registration process of the Army Reserve Family Readiness Education for Deployment training held at the Caribe Hilton Hotel, San Juan, Puerto Rico from August 15 through 17th.

The 1st MSC conducted the three day event for the families to familiarize them with issues related to deployment and the support services they could expect. The commanding officer of Fort Buchanan attended the opening evening of the event and delivered a speech focused on the transformation of the Army and how it affects Soldiers and their familymembers.



During the Army Reserve Family Readiness Education for Deployment training, Capt. Carlos Aviles, commander, Alpha Company, 1/124th Infantry Regiment, Hollywood, Florida, reaches past Elsa Cortes, acting 1st MSC Family Readiness Programs Director, his spouse, Terrie Aviles, and Lucia Romero a volunteer with the 1/124th IN Regiment, to present general David S. Elmo, commanding general, 1st MSC, a Certificate of Dedication which certifies that an engraved brick bearing the inscription: "Family Readiness, 1st MSC Puerto Rico" has been installed in the perimeter of Gathering 1 located on the front lawn of Hollywood City Hall, 2600 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, Florida. The brick was a gift from the Family Readiness Team-Alpha Unit, Inc.



Brig. Gen. David S. Elmo, commanding general, 1st Mission Support Command, Fort Buchanan, is seen here providing welcoming remarks to the more than 100 attendees of the Army Reserve Family Readiness Education for Deployment training held at the Caribe Hilton Hotel, San Juan, Puerto Rico.



Antilles alumni becomes KC-135 Air Force pilot

El Morro Staff

Susie Crespo, as she was known during her years in the Antilles Consolidated School System, has become First Lieutenant Crespo, a rated KC-135 U.S. Air Force pilot.

She graduated valedictorian from Antilles High School in 2002 and the captain of the undefeated Pirates female soccer team.

Susie completed her undergraduate studies in Engineering Science with a major in English and a double minor in philosophy and Spanish from the United States Air Force Academy in 2006.

Upon earning her silver pilot wings in Feb 2008, Lieutenant Crespo received the U.S. Air Force Association Award. The coveted award is presented to a graduate in each flight who excelled in training and typified the tenets of the association — promoting aerospace power and a strong national defense.

The 52-week pilot training program begins with a six-week preflight phase of academics and physiological training to prepare students for flight. The second phase, primary training, is conducted in the twin-engine, subsonic T-37 Tweet. Students learn aircraft flight characteristics, emergency procedures, takeoff and landing procedures, aerobatics and formation flying. Students also practice night flying, instrument and cross country navigation flying. Primary training takes about 23 weeks and includes 254.4 hours of ground training, 27.3 hours in the flight simulator and 89 flying hours. After primary training, students select, by order of merit, advanced training in the fighter-bomber or airlift-tanker track. Both tracks are designed to best train pilots for successful transition to their follow-on aircraft and mission.

Lieutenant Crespo selected the airlift-tanker track which uses the T-1A Jayhawk, the military version of a multi-place business jet. Instruction centers on crew coordination and management, instrument training, cross-country flying and simulated refueling and airdrop missions. Training takes about 26 weeks and includes 185 hours of ground training, 43 hours in the flight simulator and 104 flying hours.

Following that period of training, Susie trained for 4 months at Altus AFB in Oklahoma, where she received the rating of exceptionally qualified in the KC-135 training on 1 Aug 2008.

Now, 1st Lt. Suzanne M. Crespo Valentin, is on her way to Seymour Johnson AFB in North Carolina and her new job as a KC-135 pilot. Her first position will be as a copilot; supporting air refueling missions to almost any plane in the US Air Force inventory.

Her proud parents are Col. Carmelo Crespo, Deputy Commander of the Puerto Rico National Guard and Lt. Col. Suzanne Valentin, DCSLOG Logistics Management Officer.

She has 3 siblings, Christine, Mayra, and Maj. (P) Crespo. Lieutenant Crespo is now married to 1st Lt. Christopher Foote, a KC-135 pilot from Connecticut.



Courtesy Photo

1st Lt. Susie Crespo Foote stands in the backyard of her home nearby Seymour Johnson AFB in North Carolina. The 2002 Antilles High School graduate distinguished herself at the U.A. Air Force Academy, even though she stills carries around an A - for Antilles.



Fort Buchanan Army Community Services celebrates 25 years of Army Family Values



Leo Martinez

Command Sergeant Major David Davis visited Fort Buchanan's Army Community Service for their 25th birthday anniversary. ACS has many volunteers, in addition to staff, who work in supporting the Army Family Covenant with services, counseling and support activities. Among the many services provided by the personnel pictured here are — Financial Services Counseling by Arlene Romero; Exceptional Family member program services by Raymond Morales; Administrative services by Maria Hernandez and Gennette Manzanet-Homar; Family Advocacy Program services by Wilda Diaz.

Your Army Community Services equips people with the skills and education they need to face the challenges of military life today and tomorrow. Think of ACS when deploying or relocating, needing information and referrals, needing financial assistance, employment services, or for crisis and family assistance.

Army Community Service programs offers real-life solutions for Soldiers and their families. Your ACS equips people with the skills and education they need to face the challenges of military life today and tomorrow. Think of ACS when deploying or relocating, needing information and referrals, needing financial assistance, employment services, or for crisis and family assistance.

The following are some of the ACS programs —

- Deployment and mobilization support.
- Assistance with family readiness groups.
- Relocation readiness.
- Group training for pre/post moves.
- Cross-cultural training for bicultural families.
- SITES (Standard Installation Topic Exchange Service).
- Guidance counseling before, during, and after the move.
- Outreach to waiting families.
- Lending closet.

- Sponsorship training.
 - Financial Readiness.
 - Army Emergency Relief.
 - Education and financial planning.
 - Consumer Affairs and Financial Assistance Program.
 - Confidential budget counseling and debt management assistance.
 - Emergency food voucher.
 - Consumer information and advocacy.
 - Family Advocacy Program.
 - Stress and anger management classes.
 - Victim advocacy.
 - Emergency placement care.
 - Family violence prevention briefings.
 - Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP).
 - Installation Volunteer Program.
 - Army Family Action Plan.
 - Army Family Team Building.
 - Employment Services.
- ACS facilitates a commander's ability to provide comprehensive, coordinated, and responsive services that support the readiness of soldiers, civilian employees, and their families.

Motorcycle Training Schedule

The Welcome Center parking lot will be closed on the following dates for motorcycle training. Don't park your personal or government vehicle in the lot on training days. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sept. — 6 & 7, 13 & 14, 27 & 28.

Oct. — 4 & 5, 11 & 12, 18 & 19, 25 & 26.





Pirates assemble to begin new school year

Marc McCormick
El Morro

Each year, on the opening day of school, the commanding officer of Fort Buchanan speaks to the student body of Antilles High School. It is a passage of rites for the students in several senses.

First, there are the incoming freshmen.

Being new to the high school system, these students are learning how the school operates and what their responsibilities are.

Their conduct is not only pertinent to the school but also to the garrison, which is where the commander comes in.

The other classes have moved up a notch and the commander has a chance to address them and remind them of their responsibilities to themselves, the school and their underclassmen.

The reality of the situation is that attending school on the garrison is a privilege, not a right.

And, as such, the garrison commander has a responsibility to maintain a safe and secure environment for

those who seek an education. A garrison commander is a military officer in charge of a military facility (the garrison containing all its tenants) and of all its day to day operations.

The commander provides equitable, effective and efficient management of the installation in order to support mission readiness and execution.

This is a bureaucratic way to say the commander is responsible for maintaining law and order on the post.

When a student commits an infraction or crime while on the garrison, even if it is on school grounds, the commander supervises legal operations designed to prosecute criminal violations in Federal Court that rise to that level of offense.

The school has several rules and restrictions while a student is on campus and every student is required to abide by them.

During his address to the students, Commanding Officer Col. Edwin C. Domingo was not concerned with what would be considered internal school matters involving minor infractions.

He was more concerned with broader issues that rise to



Photos by Marc McCormick

Commanding Officer Col. Edwin C. Domingo spoke to students on the first day of school at Antilles High School about their responsibilities and the consequences of attending the school.

the garrison level.

Wanting students to get a good education was first on his mind but he also made it clear that he has the authority to bar individuals from the installation based on criminal violations. School sanctions generally take the form of suspension, expulsion, suspension from school sports and other activities; other disciplinary actions are addressed in the School Code.

The garrison commander can also make access to the post permanent or limited; suspend access to MWR activities such as the Water Spout, golf and Bowling.

Another consequence of bad behavior deals with commissary and exchange privileges.

The garrison is aggressively pursuing prevention of theft at the commissary and exchange. Col. Domingo reminded the students that shoplifting is taken seriously and will not be tolerated.

Domingo's address was not a draconian as described. He brought a message of how he wants a safe learning environment where every student can learn and have the opportunity to excel. His responsibilities to the garrison and students merely spelled out the methods he has at his disposal to guarantee an open and secure learning environment.

As the garrison commander, as a father with students attending Antilles High School, he realizes the unique opportunities his children and every one attending AHS has offered to them. His program is designed to support success.



It was a big opening day at Antilles High School. For incoming Freshmen (left) the new world of high school was serious business. For the Senior class, in red, it marked the final passage toward graduation. One first day, all high school students gathered in the auditorium to learn the rules of the school and what was expected of them.

Speech From Page 1

quality services they deserve such as - Army Community Service, Child Care Services, Youth Services, and Soldier and Morale Welfare and Recreation Services.

Fort Buchanan is a principal agency in supporting Army Family Covenant activities which 1st MSC, as a tenant organization, and its family members, take advantage of. The garrison provides the support facilities and services that family members of the unit have at their disposal.

"These practices and initiatives benefit the military families by providing a solid partnership with 1st Mission Support Command, the Puerto Rico National Guard and off post agencies. It also shares resources for a joint Family Assistance Center better known as the Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee. It provides bilingual/bicultural staff and training materials to military families. It has been recognized by Family Morale, Welfare, Recreation Command and IMCOM-South East Team as a model to be followed," Domingo said.

Among the issues discussed at the conference were DEERS; benefits overview; Tricare medical and dental services; finances, employers support of the Guard and Reserve; safety and security; emotional cycles, and suicide prevention.

Domingo underscored these and other support systems for Army families in his remarks by saying, "The commitment of providing our families a strong, supportive environment where they can thrive goes further by keeping those families connected to their loved ones by IMCOM's initiative to reach out to geographically dispersed Soldiers and Families via the new Army Integrated Family Support Network. This network will keep Soldiers and Families prepared by connecting them with face-to-face assistance."

Also attending the conference was the Garrison's Financial Counselor Arlene Romero.

On the third day of the conference issues relating to the Army Family Advocacy Program were discussed along with services of the American Red Cross, Child Youth

Services and other programs.

Noting the way the Army has transformed in support of families, Domingo said, "This transformation is summarized in the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation vision statement - "Soldiers and Families first...Quality programs and services always." That is our commitment and our legacy to our children. The Army is mission, is readiness and is people like you, [members of 1st MSC Family Readiness Group](#), and me. It is Soldiers and families embraced and supported by the strength of our communities as one Army Strong family defending the United States throughout the 21st century and beyond."



1st Mission Support Group Chief of Staff Col. Miguel A. Issac, right, listens as Fort Buchanan Commanding Officer Col. Edwin C. Domingo discusses family readiness with Col. Hector Lopez, commanding officer, 210th regional Support Group, prior to the start of a 1st MSC sponsored Family Readiness Group seminar held at San Juan's Caribe Hilton Hotel.



Dribble, dribble...

The Youth Services Basketball Camp 2008 was held in August with 19 participants at Fort Buchanan's Fitness Center. The Basketball Camp consisted of basic fundamentals, nutrition, physical fitness, sportsmanship and Character Counts Pillars.

"The camp was facilitated by Isaac Cruz and Luis D. Rivera, CYS Sports Assistants and Stephen Hurley and Michael Dardiz, CYS Volunteers" said Irma A. Muñoz, CYS Sports & Fitness Director.



Irma Munoz

Members of the CYS Basketball team take time out from basketball camp to pose for photo.



Sector San Juan, Borinquen receive new commanders

Ricardo Castrodad
Sector San Juan PAO

AGUADILLA, Puerto Rico — Coast Guard Air Station Borinquen received a new commanding officer July 3, 2008 during a change-of-command ceremony that took place at the base aircraft hangar in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico.

Coast Capt. Thomas D. Wade, commanding officer, Air Station Borinquen, relinquished command to Capt. Melvin Bouboulis during the change-of-command ceremony, a time-honored military tradition that formally transfers command.

"It is a special honor to receive command of such a prestigious unit such as Air Station Borinquen," said Capt. Melvin Bouboulis, commanding officer for Air Station Borinquen. "The Coast Guard has a long and extensive history of conducting operations in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. We expect to continue serving the people in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands through operational excellence in executing our Coast Guard missions throughout our area of responsibility."

Bouboulis reports to Air Station Borinquen from the Coast Guard Sector/Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas. This will be Bouboulis's seventh tour in the Coast Guard. He served as deck watch officer aboard Coast Guard Cutter Conifer in San Pedro, California; a pilot at Air Station New Orleans, Louisiana; Aviation Maintenance Officer at Air Station North Bend, Oregon; head engineer for the Coast Guard's fleet of HC-130 aircraft at Aircraft Repair and Supply Center in Elizabeth City, North Carolina; the Engineering Officer at the Coast Guard's Aviation Training Center Mobile, Alabama; the Logistics Department Head, Commanding Officer of Enlisted Personnel and Air Station Executive Officer at Corpus Christi, Texas.

Capt. Wade, Air Station Borinquen's commanding officer since July 2005, will be retiring from the Coast Guard after serving 25 years active duty. Over Capt Wade's tour Coast Guard crews saved 275 lives and over \$608,000 dollars in property, and they interdicted over 1,500



Ricardo Castrodad

Capt. Melvin Bouboulis, new Air Station Borinquen commander, salutes Rear Adm. Steve Branham as he assumes command of Air Station Borinquen from Capt. Thomas D. Wade (right of photo), outgoing Air Station Borinquen Commander. Bouboulis reports to Air Station Borinquen from Coast Guard Sector/Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas, where he will serve his seventh tour in the Coast Guard.

immigrants.

"Having worked and lived in Puerto Rico for the past three years with the men and women of Air Station Borinquen has been the best experience of my career," said Capt. Thomas D. Wade, outgoing commanding officer for Air Station Borinquen. "It was a true honor and pleasure to have served the people of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Dominican Republic."

Air Station Borinquen has four HH-65 Dolphin helicopters. Their missions include Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Alien Migration Interdiction Operations, and Homeland Security Patrols. So far in 2008 Air Station Borinquen has saved over 90 lives, more than \$500,000 in property, and interdicted over 160 migrants at sea.

CG Hosts Eastern Caribbean Search & Rescue Conference in Isla Verde

Ricardo Castrodad
Sector San Juan Sector

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary and the U.S. Southern Command hosted a Eastern Caribbean Search and Rescue Conference.

A search and rescue demonstration with a Coast Guard HH-65 Dolphin helicopter and a Puerto Rico Police Joint Forces of Rapid Action marine unit took place in waters just off the Isla Verde beach.

The conference is directed to Caribbean Coast Guards, maritime police and naval forces, and other government agencies and volunteer search and rescue organizations from each participating nation.

"This conference is a unique and great opportunity for us to work periodically



Ricardo Castrodad

Representatives from 22 Caribbean nations and the U.S., attended the Eastern Caribbean Search and Rescue Conference.

sharing information and best practices with our partner nations, including federal and local agencies in Puerto Rico and the Eastern Caribbean as we work to improve our search and rescue techniques, procedures, and technologies for the benefit of regional mariners," Capt. Eduardo Pino, Sector San Juan Commander said.



Ricardo Castrodad

Capt. James Tunstall, left of photo, former Sector San Juan commander; Rear Adm. Robert S. Branham, center of photo, Seventh District commander and Capt. Eduardo Pino, right of photo, incoming Sector San Juan commander during the Sector San Juan change-of-command ceremony held at Coast Guard Base San Juan Wednesday, July 2, 2008. Tunstall heads to the U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill AFB, Tampa, Fla.

Coast Guard receives new commander for Sector San Juan

Sector San Juan Public Affairs

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The Coast Guard received a new commander for Sector San Juan during a change of command ceremony held at the Coast Guard base in La Puntilla, Old San Juan.

During the change of command ceremony, Capt. Eduardo Pino, previously the Chief of Response Enforcement Branch for the Coast Guard's Seventh District in Miami, assumed the responsibilities from Capt. James E. Tunstall as commander of the Coast Guard's Sector San Juan.

"It is a true honor to have the opportunity to lead the men and women of Sector San Juan," said Capt. Eduardo Pino, Sector San Juan Commander. "I also look forward to earning the trust and friendship of our federal, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands partners. Together we can continue to strengthen our relationships to better secure our maritime border against illegal voyages, drug trafficking and potential terrorist threats. It is of equal importance to continue working to save lives and protect our environment through Search and Rescue, Pollution Response and Disaster Preparedness Response Operations."

Tunstall, Sector San Juan commander since July 2005, will be assigned as the new Coast Guard Liaison Officer for the U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Fla.

"This has been the highlight of my career," said Capt. James E. Tunstall, outgoing Sector San Juan Commander. "It has been an absolute honor to serve the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands."

Sector San Juan, headquartered in La Puntilla, Old San Juan, is a 1.3 million square mile area of responsibility that encompasses the eastern Caribbean.

The Sector comprises six shore units including Air Station Borinquen, Aguadilla, one of three major air stations in the Coast Guard's Seventh District, and two of the busiest ports in the nation, with more than three million visitors per year.

The Coast Guard is the nation's lead federal agency for Maritime Homeland Security, and is charged with reducing terrorism-related risk in the maritime domain.

The Coast Guard carries out this awesome responsibility by working with other federal, state and local law enforcement partners to verify compliance with all federal statutes and regulations in both the port area as well as on vessels at sea.

General Walter T. Kerwin passes

Former Vice Chief of Staff dies at age 91.

Army News Service



General Walter T. Kerwin, jr. United States Army (Ret.) passed away on July 11, 2008 in Alexandria, Virginia.

General Kerwin was born June 14, 1917, in West Chester Pennsylvania. He served with distinction during his 39 years in the army. The long and distinguished career of General Walter T. Kerwin, jr. exemplifies "duty, honor, country." At home and abroad, he was a consummate leader, serving the nation, the Army, and his fellow man. His contributions to world peace and the quality of military life are far-reaching and enduring.

General Kerwin graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1939. He was commissioned a second lieutenant of field artillery. His first assignment was at Fort Lewis, Washington with the 9th field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division.

General Kerwin served with the 3rd Infantry Division from 1939 until 1944 in the capacities of battery executive, battery commander, division naval gunfire support, naval liaison officer and division artillery intelligence and operations officer. Beginning

in October, 1942, General Kerwin's war-time overseas duty included Africa, Sicily, Italy, and France. Wounded in December, 1944, at Mutzig, France, he was evacuated to the United States in March of 1945.

In June of 1945, General Kerwin was assigned to the operations division of the War Department general staff as a theater operations group staff officer. In August, 1947, General Kerwin was selected for attendance at the command and general staff college, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Upon graduation, General Kerwin remained as an instructor in the intelligence school and was later assigned as chief of the college instructor training.

In July of 1951, General Kerwin departed for Turkey for duty with the joint United States military mission for aid to Turkey (Jusmmat). Here General Kerwin served as director of instruction at the Turkish artillery school at Polotli, Turkey, and as assistant j-3 of the joint staff in Ankara.

With the activation of the U.S. Armed Forces Command in July of 1973, General Kerwin assumed command and moved to the FORSCOM headquarters at Fort McPherson, Georgia. He held the position of commanding general of the United States Forces Command until September 1974.

He then became the vice chief of staff of the United States Army, and held that position until his retirement from the United States Army in June 1978.



Courtesy Photo

Great snakes!...

Workplace hazards may be lurking anywhere: in the plant, on the worksite and out in the field. Make sure your workers are aware of their surroundings and any special hazards that may be present, make sure they're wearing appropriate PPE; and make sure they know how to respond when the unexpected happens. This photo demonstrates how understanding your work environment and having adequate warning of potential hazards can help you out of a slippery situation.



Buchanan in the News



Marc McCormick

Commanding Officer Col. Edwin C. Domingo, left, welcomed Brig. Gen. Francis L. Hendricks, deputy commanding general, Army, Air Force Exchange Service, to the garrison. The garrison and AAFES continually observe and adjust business practices for customer satisfaction.



Marc McCormick

Brig. Gen. Blake E. Williams, center, met with Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army Maj. Gen. (ret.) Felix A. Santoni and Fort Buchanan Commanding Officer Col. Edwin C. Domingo. Gen. Williams is the Deputy Commanding General First Army East Division.



Leo Martinez

Commanding Officer Col. Edwin C. Domingo (center, end of table) receives information concerning hurricane preparation plans following an exercise at the Buchanan Installation Operations Center. The garrison continually upgrades its hurricane response plans throughout the year.

Seminar

up-to-date and designations of beneficiaries," he said.

"We understand that retiring is a stressful time for the employee," he continued. We are there to support the customer and to help them make lifelong decisions."

The handoff comes when the Army Benefits Center forwards the retiree's package to the Office of Personnel Management. "There is a bridge time of 6 months," Buchanan explained, "after we send the retiree's package to OPM. During that 6 months, the employee can still access the Army Benefits Center, and, if OPM has questions or needs extra data, we will help provide it." After that six months, the retiree will have to deal directly with OPM about any issue related to retirement.

From Page 8

The Army Benefits Center-Civilian has three branches. The branch Buchanan supervises has 21 employees and deals with retirement estimates. The other two branches deal with retirements, deaths and disabilities and package processing, respectively. "We service more than 240,000 Army civilian employees worldwide," he pointed out.

Located at Fort Riley Kansas, the benefits center can be contacted by calling toll free 877-276-9287.

Benefit counselors are available Monday through Friday 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Central Time. Their mailing address is Army benefits Center-Civilian, 301 Marshall Ave., Fort Riley, KS 66442. The Army Benefits Web site is at www.abc.army.mil.

Public Notice of Environmental Assessment

"The U.S. Army Garrison Fort Buchanan prepared an Environmental Assessment that considers the proposed implementation of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico. The EA identifies, evaluates, and documents the environmental and socioeconomic effects of facility demolition, construction, renovation, maintenance, and operation proposed to accommodate the changes mandated by the BRAC 2005 Commission. A No Action Alternative is also evaluated. Implementation of the proposed action is not expected to result in significant environmental impacts. Therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and a Finding of No Significant Impact will be published in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The EA and FONSI are available for review and comment for 30 days. Copies of the EA and FONSI can be obtained by contacting Anibal Negrón at 787-707-3575, or by e-mail requests to anibal.negron@us.army.mil. Copies of the EA and FONSI are available for review at the Carnegie Public Library, 7 Ponce de Leon Avenue, San Juan, PR 00901. Comments on the EA and FONSI should be submitted to Anibal Negrón by no later than 30 days after publication of this Notice of Availability."



New Class Army Service Uniform standard announced

Department of the Army

This message announces the implementation and bridging strategy for the Army's transition to the blue Army Service Uniform. This message defines the wear policies for the ASU during our transition period. It reflects the input of hundreds of thousands of Soldiers and leaders from all Army components who have told the Army for the last two years what they want and expect in their ASU. Soldiers want a uniform that reflects their pride of service, service traditions, and functionality. This wear policy and bridging strategy is a culmination of many efforts from across the Army.

The wear policy for the blue ASU is intended to give Soldiers what they have asked for in a service uniform while maintaining the traditions of our service. These changes include authorization of a combat service identification badge to recognize combat service, overseas service bars authorized on the jacket sleeve for both enlisted Soldiers and officers, the wear of distinctive unit insignia on the shoulder loops of the blue coat for enlisted Soldiers, authorizing paratroopers to wear the black jump boots with the blue ASU, and the decision to transition to a new short sleeve and long sleeve white shirt with shoulder loops. To honor the heritage and traditions of combat service, the CSIB is authorized for wear on the ASU and replicates wear of the shoulder sleeve insignia-former wartime service patch. The subdued SSI-FWTS patch continues to serve as the principal insignia for wear on the Army combat uniform. Local commanders can authorize the wear of the non-subdued SSI and SSI-FWTS on the ACU for special occasions such as change of command, reenlistments, color guards and other special occasions.

History — the Army currently has three service uniforms; green, blue, and white. Enlisted Soldiers receive the green service uniform as part of their basic clothing bag issue when they enter the Army during initial entry training. The Army further provides active duty enlisted Soldiers an annual clothing allowance to maintain proper fit and appearance of their basic clothing bag issue items. The Army includes a series of stipends in this annual clothing allowance towards the replacement of the green service uniform and all basic clothing bag items. For enlisted Soldiers, the blue service uniform is an optional wear item, purchased if desired, and worn on appropriate occasions.

Commissioned officers are given a one-time stipend when commissioned to purchase their required uniform items. Officers then maintain proper fit and appearance of their uniform items throughout their career. The Army requires officers to purchase and maintain both the green and blue service uniforms.

To streamline the number of uniforms Soldiers purchase and maintain throughout their careers, the Army will phase out the green and white service uniforms and retain the blue service uniform as our ASU. Soldiers who currently have a blue service uniform can immediately begin wearing this uniform as their ASU, in accordance with the implementing instructions below.

The new Army ASU will include a new coat and low waist trousers for male Soldiers; and a new coat, slacks and skirt for female Soldiers. The new fabric for the

ASU is heavier and wrinkle resistant over previously manufactured uniforms and will consist of 55% wool and 45% polyester material. The new ASU coat will have a tailored, athletic cut, to improve uniform fit and appearance. The ASU will include a new improved heavier and wrinkle resistant short and long-sleeved white shirt with permanent military creases and shoulder loops. The Army anticipates the new ASU items available for purchase in our military clothing sales stores in the 4th quarter fy 2009.

The Army encourages Soldiers and leaders, who own the current (old) ASU, when appropriate, to wear as their Dress Blue, Class A or Class B uniform. This message establishes a Class B uniform category for the current blue ASU as part of our bridging strategy. The Class B uniform category defines those ASU items worn without the service coat.

Dress Blue ASU — The Dress Blue ASU includes the Army blue coat and trousers, a long-sleeved white shirt and black bow tie for males. The Army Dress Blue ASU for females includes the Army blue coat, skirt, and a long-sleeved white shirt with black neck tab. Currently, females in Army bands, honor guards, and female chaplains are authorized to wear Army blue slacks in the performance of their duties. The black beret and service cap are authorized for wear with this uniform. When the Dress Blue ASU is worn for evening social occasions (after retreat), commanders can direct no headgear required. Combat boots and organizational items, such as brassards, military police accessories and distinctive unit insignia are not authorized for wear with the Dress Blue ASU. All other accessories and insignia authorized for wear with the Class A service uniform are authorized for wear on the Dress Blue ASU.

Class A ASU — the Class A ASU includes the Army blue coat and trousers/skirt/slacks, a short or long sleeve white shirt and four-in-hand necktie (male)/neck tab (female). (For accessories and other items authorized for wear on the Class A ASU see insignias, awards, badges and accouterments worn with the Dress Blue, Class A, and Class B ASU paragraph below.)

Class B ASU — The Class B ASU includes the Army blue trousers/skirt/slacks, a short or long sleeve white shirt. Soldiers will wear the four-in-hand necktie with the long sleeve white shirt when it is worn without the Class A coat. (For accessories and other items authorized for wear on the Class B ASU see insignias, awards, badges and accouterments worn with the Dress Blue, Class A, and Class B ASU paragraph below). Until the new ASU items are available, Soldiers who have the low waist trousers with belt loops, or slacks, have the option of wearing a commercial short sleeve white shirt with shoulder loops in the open collar configuration or with a four-in-hand necktie (black neck tab for female Soldiers). Soldiers have the option of wearing a commercial long sleeve white shirt with shoulder loops and a four-in-hand necktie (black neck tab for female Soldiers). Soldiers who have the current commercial white shirt without shoulder loops must wear as appropriate, the black wind breaker, black pullover or black cardigan sweaters with this uniform.

Soldiers who have the high waist blue trousers worn with suspenders (designed to wear with the blue mess uniform) may

wear these trousers with the current ASU during this transition period. These high waist trousers must be worn with the service coat, black wind breaker, black pullover or black cardigan sweaters.

The Army will place the new ASU items in the Soldier's clothing bag for initial entry Soldiers in 4th quarter, fy 2010. The mandatory possession date for the new ASU items is 4th quarter, fy 2014.

The ASU consists of the following items —

- ASU coat.
- ASU trousers, low waist with belt loops (male Soldiers).
- ASU slacks, low waist (female Soldiers).
- ASU skirt (female Soldiers).

ASU accessory items authorized for wear iaw ar 670-1, wear and appearance of Army uniforms and insignia —

- Belt with gold buckle (para 27-2b and 2d, and 27-25).
- Boots, combat, leather, black (optional for wear with Class A and Class B uniforms, only for those Soldiers authorized to wear the tan, green, or maroon berets, those assigned to air assault coded positions, and mps performing mp duties.) (para 27-3).
- Bow tie, black (worn after retreat) (para 27-19a).
- Buttons (para 27-4).
- Cape, black (officer only) (para 27-6a).
- Cape, blue (officer only) (para 27-6b).
- Chaplain's apparel (para 27-7).
- Cuff links and studs, gold (para 27-10).
- Coat, black, all weather (para 27-8).
- Gloves, black, leather, unisex, dress (worn with black all weather coat or black wind breaker) (para 27-12b).
- Gloves, white, dress (para 27-12c).
- Handbag, black, fabric or leather (para 27-13b).
- Handbag, black, shoulder (para 27-13d).
- Handbag, black, clutch type, optional purchase (para 27-13a).
- Hat, drill sergeant (authorized for wear with Class A and Class B uniforms) (para 27-14a).
- Judge's apparel (para 27-15).
- Military police accessories (not authorized with the formal Class A ASU).
- Necktie, black, four-in-hand (worn on duty) (para 27-19c).
- Neck tabs (para 27-18).
- Scarf, black (only with black all weather coat or black).
- Windbreaker) (para 27-21a).
- Shirt, white, long sleeve (para 27-22c).
- Shirt, white, short sleeve (para 27-22a).
- Shoes, oxford, black (para 27-23a).
- Shoes, pumps, black (para 27-23f and 23g).
- Socks, black, cushion sole (worn with boots only) (para 27-24a).
- Socks, black, dress (worn with trousers/slacks) (para 27-24b).
- Stockings, sheer (para 27-24d).
- Sweater, pullover, black (para 27-27).
- Sweater, unisex cardigan, black (para 27-26a).

- Undergarments, white (para 27-28).
 - Umbrella, black (females may carry and use an umbrella, only during inclement weather, when wearing the Dress Blue ASU. umbrellas are not authorized in formations or when wearing field or utility uniforms).
 - Windbreaker, black (only with Class B uniform) (para 27-30).
- Insignias, awards, badges and accouterments worn with the Dress Blue, Class A and Class B ASU: note exception —
- Aiguillettes, service (officers only) (not authorized on the Class B ASU) (para



28-25) and (28-26).

- Airborne background trimming (para 28-31b).
- Branch of service scarves (not authorized on the enlisted formal Class A service uniform) (para 28-20).
- Branch insignia (not authorized on the Class B ASU) (para 28-10 and 28-12a).
- Brassards (not authorized on the Dress Blue ASU) (para 28-29).
- Combat Service Identification Badge (new item to be worn when available) the CSIB will be worn when available in place of the SSI-FWTS on the ASU. The CSIB will be worn center on the wearer's right breast pocket of the ASU coat for male Soldiers; female Soldiers wear the CSIB on the right side parallel to the waistline on the ASU coat. The CSIB is ranked fifth in order of precedence below the presidential, vice-presidential, Secretary of Defense and Joint Chiefs of Staff identification badges. The CSIB can also be worn on the shirt when wearing the Class B versions of the ASU (para 29-18).
- Decorations and service medal ribbons (para 29-7, 29-8 and 29-9).
- Distinctive items authorized for infantry personnel (para 28-30).
- Distinctive unit insignia (enlisted only) authorized for wear on the Class A and Class B uniforms only) (para 28-22).
- Foreign badges (para 29-19).
- Fourragere/lanyards (para 28-11).
- Gold star lapel pin (para 29-7).
- Headgear insignia (para 28-3).
- Insignia of grade (para 28-5, 28-6, 28-7 and 28-8).
- Ocs/woc insignia (para 28-14 and 28-15).
- Nameplate (para 28-24c).
- Organizational flash (para 28-31a).
- Overseas service bars (optional)(para 28-28).
- Regimental distinctive insignia (optional) (para 28-23).
- Service stripes (enlisted personnel



Sentinel of the Caribbean

ASU — (para 28-27). **From Page 16**

- Unit awards (para 29-11).
- U.S. badges (identification, marksmanship, combat and special skill) (para 29-13, 29-16, 29-17 and 29-18).
- U.S. insignia (not authorized on the Class B ASU) (para 28-4).

The leader's identification insignia is not authorized to be worn on the ASU.

Headgear authorized for wear with the ASU —

- Beret (black, maroon, green and tan).
- Service cap (male/female; corporals and above).

The beret is the primary headgear worn with the ASU by all Soldiers unless the commander directs wear of the service cap (for corporals and above).

Officer and enlisted Soldiers in the grade of corporal and above will wear trousers with a gold braid sewn on the outside of seam of each trouser leg of the new blue ASU. The braid will be sewn from the bottom of the waistband to the bottom of the trouser leg (Soldiers assigned to the old guard are authorized the gold braid regardless of grade). On the new ASU, service stripes are authorized for wear on the left sleeve for enlisted Soldiers and overseas service bar(s) on the right sleeve for both officers and enlisted Soldiers. The service stripes and overseas service bars are similar in size to the ones currently worn on the Army green uniform. The new service stripes and overseas service bars will be gold in color and

trimmed in blue to match the ASU. As we transition to the new ASU, we maintain our traditional larger service stripes on the optional white and blue (short jacket) mess dress uniform.

For those Soldiers who have purchased the current (old) blue uniform, this uniform will remain authorized for wear until the mandatory possession date for the new ASU, 4th quarter of fy 2014. Soldiers who have the current (old) blue uniform are not required to remove the existing large service stripes. Privates through specialists who now own the current blue trousers are not required to remove the existing gold braid on their trouser legs. Soldiers who purchase the new ASU are required to comply with all wear policies outlined in this message. The intent of this bridging strategy is to allow for maximum wear of the existing uniforms and establish policy for their replacement. During this transformation period we will have Soldiers in mixed uniforms. The Army is in transformation. Beginning in 4th quarter FY 2009, Soldiers have the option to take their official DA photo in the ASU. This is strictly optional on the Soldiers part. Soldiers can take their DA photo in the Army green service uniform until the mandatory possession date of 4th quarter fy 2014. During this transition period, official DA photos can be in either the Army green service uniform or the ASU. The wear out date for the Army green service uniform with accessories is the 4th quarter of FY 2014.

Uniform — ignoring his or her on-the-spot correction. As I said earlier, every instance of not adhering to the established standard can manifest itself into the loss of a Soldier.

Who does Army Regulation 670-1, Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia, apply to?

Answer — Army Regulation 670-1 applies to active and retired Army, Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve personnel, to include the Reserve Officers Training Corps and the Corps of Cadets, U.S. Military Academy, when their respective uniform regulations does not include sufficient guidance or instruction. It does not apply to generals of the Army, the Chief of Staff of the Army, or former Chiefs of Staff of the Army, each of whom may prescribe his or her own uniform.

Source — Army Regulation 670-1 dated 3 February 2005

Why can't I wear the Improved Physical Fitness Uniform in the Post Exchange?

Answer — The IPFU is not a duty uniform. Second, it's unhygienic and presents a soiled appearance after conducting physical fitness. Patrons don't want to look at sweaty, unclean Soldiers while shopping or enjoying a meal. The Garrison Commander directed in Policy Memorandum 08-08 dated 1 June 2008 that the physical fitness uniform may only be worn at the AAFES Gass Station Station. No other facilities are authorized.

Is an Identification Card or Security Badge authorized for wear on the uniform?

Answer — Yes, but only if required for access to restricted or secure areas. Commanders may prescribe the wear of security identification badges, in accordance with Army Regulation 600-8-14 and other applicable regulations. Personnel will not wear security identification badges outside the area for which they are required. Personnel will not hang

other items from the security badge(s). Military Identification Cards are considered sensitive items and once you leave the restricted area, you're required to remove and secure the badge.

Source — Army Regulation 670-1 dated 3 February 2005, Chapter 1-16a (2)b

Why can't I wear the Army Combat Uniform Patrol Cap on Fort Buchanan?

Answer — The ACU Patrol cap is worn in field environments when the Kevlar helmet is not worn, on work details, or in other environments where the beret is impractical, such as in the Motor Pool. The beret is the basic headgear in garrison environments and became the standard headgear for utility uniforms on 14 June 2001. The Garrison Commander directed in Policy Memorandum 08-08 dated 1 June 2008 that all Soldiers will wear the beret while in garrison.

Source — Army Regulation 670-1 dated 3 February 2005, Chapter 3-5a (1); ALARACT 164/2006

Why do I have to face approaching traffic when running or walking on post?

Answer — All runners/walkers are required to run or walk facing oncoming traffic (left side of the road). This is not an option. The runner or walker's back should never be to the traffic. This allows the runner or walker to maintain eye-to-eye contact with the vehicle operator and gives the runner or walker a chance to react should the vehicle come too close. Vehicle operators should not have to guess what a runner/walker is going to do. This rule ensures the safety of both the vehicle operator and the runner or walker.

Source — Fort Buchanan Regulation 190-5, Chapter 4-8e, Army Regulation 190-5

Why am I not allowed to talk on a cell phone, smoke a cigarette, or eat food while walking?

Answer — The military is a uniformed service where discipline is judged, in



CSM's Leader Development Top Reminder Tips

"It's hard to lead a cavalry charge if you think you look funny on a horse."

Adlai Stevenson, American politician and former Governor of Illinois.

"I don't want any "yes-men" around me. I want everybody to tell me the truth even if it costs them their jobs."

Samuel Goldwyn 1882-1974, American (Polish-born) movie producer

"It is a terrible thing to look over your shoulder when you are trying to lead...and find no one there."

Franklin D. Roosevelt, thirty-second President of the United States (1933-1945).

"Life is like a dogsled team. If you ain't the lead dog, the scenery never changes."

Lewis Grizzard, American writer and humorist

"Management is efficiency in climbing the ladder of success; leadership determines whether the ladder is leaning against the right wall."

Stephen Covey, American leadership consultant and writer

"Don't tell people how to do things, tell them what to do and let them surprise you with their results."

General George S. Patton

"I can no longer obey; I have tasted command, and I cannot give it up."

Napoleon Bonaparte 1769-1821, Emperor of France, One of the greatest military leaders and a risk taking gambler.

Command Sergeant Major Davis, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Buchanan



ARMY STRONG.

part, not just by the manner in which a Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine, or Coast Guardsman wears a uniform, but by the individual's personal appearance and professional conduct. A disciplined, neat and well-groomed appearance by all military members is fundamental to the respective service they belong to and contributes to building the pride and esprit essential to an effective military force. A vital ingredient of the strength and military effectiveness is the pride and self discipline that military members bring to their Service through a conservative military image. Second, when you're walking and talking on a cell phone, walking with a cigarette or licking an ice cream cone, you become distracted and often can not render a proper salute or give the greeting of the day. All personnel in uniform are required to salute when they meet and recognize persons entitled to the salute. It is a time-honored demonstration of courtesy among all military members that expresses mutual respect and pride in the service.

Can I still wear the brown t-shirt with my ACU's and other items?

Answer — No. The wear out date for the brown t-shirt was 30 April 2008 and applies to Active Component, Army Reserve and National Guard.

Additionally, you can no longer wear the Battle Dress Uniform, desert-BDU, black leather boots, woodland and desert camouflage-pattern caps, olive green nametape and U.S. Army tapes, subdued olive green shoulder sleeve insignias, black rigger belt, black web belt with open-faced black buckle, and jungle boots (green and black)

Source — Army G-1 ALARACT Message, 9 January 2008

Can I mix the long-sleeved IPFU grey t-shirt with the shorts or black pants?

Answer — Yes. There are no restrictions on the combination of IPFU items, unless your commander prescribes a

particular uniform for formations or unit Physical Fitness.

Source — Army Regulation 670-1 dated 3 February 2005, Chapter 14

What is the correct way of spelling "army" and "soldiers" in military correspondence?

Answer — Both "army" and "soldier" are now spelled with a capital "Army" and "Soldier", respectively.

What general guidelines are taken into consideration about ribbon placement on my class A uniform?

Answer — The determination of whether three or four ribbons are worn in each row is based upon the size of the coat and the position of the lapel. The first and second rows will contain the same number of ribbons (three or four) before starting a third row.

Soldier will not start a second row unless they are authorized to wear four or more ribbons.

Ribbons are worn in order of precedence from the wearer's right to left, in one or more rows with either no space between rows or 1/8 - inch space between rows.

No more than four ribbons are worn in any one row.

Source — Army Regulation 670-1, paragraph 29-7a. (2)(a)

I trust this will clarify some questions you may have had regarding uniforms and other issues.

If you have further questions, please refer to the regulation or your first line leader.

Until next time, I challenge everyone — military and civilian — to stay physically fit, mentally tough and be a team player.

And, by all means, follow the established standards.



From Page 2

PRIMEROS



A PROUD AND READY FORCE

PRimeros in the News



Staff Sgt. Edwin Blasini, an operations NCO, 389th Finance Detachment, who recently returned from Iraq, gets assistance from Sgt. 1st Class Cesar Flores, Information NCO, on re-establishing his U.S. Army Reserve CAC account on the 1st Mission Support Command's local area network, at the Customer Service desk located at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, Building 353.



Photos by Capt. Anthony John

Having just commissioned him, Lt. Col. Luis Pomales, operations officer, 166th Regional Support Group affixes the rank of Second Lieutenant to former Staff Sgt. Jay Rodriguez-Bonano, who will now serve as the Operations Officer of the 346th Transportation Battalion, as his spouse Laura Frontera smiles proudly.



On Aug. 7, 2008, Maj. Cruz, 1st Mission Support Command's Human Resource Officer read a copy of an extract of Jose Chegui Torres' military orders. The very humble Chegui Torres holds his Certification of Military service as Francisco Zayas Seijo, Ponce mayor, and Capt. Bruckman stand by his side. This civic action held at the Salon de los Alcades, second floor Alcaldía de Ponce.



Lt. Col. Hector Moran, 1st MSC Mobilization, Readiness Operation Center OIC and Col. Eric Bermudez, Assistant Chief of Staff, 1st MSC, listen as Nestor Ramos, Equal Opportunity Program Manager, conducts EO training to members of the Command Group.

Leadership spreads the message



Photos Capt. Anthony John

Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey (D-NY) talks to Channel 12 News of White Plains, New York about the presentation Brig. Gen. David S. Elmo, commanding officer, 1st Mission Support Command, just gave on "Being a Reserve Soldier in the Army in 2008." The speech was presented to the more than 200 White Plains Rotary Club members at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Congresswoman Lowey is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, where she serves as Chairwoman of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee, and the House Homeland Security Committee. Lt. Col. Hector Moran, 1st MSC's Mobilization, Readiness and Operations Center and Sergeant Major Segundo Ferro wait their turn to tell on-camera their personal experiences as well.



Brig. Gen. David S. Elmo, commanding general, 1st Mission Support Command, addresses more than 200 Rotary members from the White Plains, New York chapter on what it is to be a Soldier in the Army in 2008.

Family members attend marriage retreat

Capt. Anthony John
1st MSC PAO

During a "Retiro para el Enriquecimiento Matrimonial" ceremony hosted by the 1st Mission Support Command's Chaplain's Office, 35 couples representing the rank of Private First Class to Colonel, participated in the Strong Bonds event held at the Rincon of the Seas Grand Caribbean Hotel, Rincon, Puerto Rico from August 1-3, 2008.

Capt. Wanda Acevedo, one of the 1st MSC's Chaplains, stated, "This retreat gives tools of communication and problem solving that married couples can use in their day to day lives."

Sgt. 1st Class Juan Bruno, 1st MSC Chaplain NCOIC, says a healthy family plus a healthy Soldier equals the Strong Bonds needed in today's military.



Photos by Capt. Anthony John

Staff Sgt. Noel Mantilla, a native of Isabella, Puerto Rico and an Armor NCO with the 166th Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment in Fort Buchanan, gingerly embraced his wife of 32 years, Lucy Mantilla of San Sabastian, Puerto Rico, during the Strong Bonds event. The Mantillas shared their success for long term marriage, "We have love, respect and tolerance for each other and above all, have Christ in our hearts. If you expect problems, you will be ready to confront them when they occur."



Sgt. 1st Class Juan Bruno, 1st MSC's Chaplain's NCOIC, hands a rose to AGR Staff Sgt. David A. Wheeler, a native of Seattle, Washington, a human resources sergeant stationed at Fort Lawton, Washington, which he will in turn use to rededicate his marital vows to his lovely wife of four months, Noraida M. Wheeler, of Carolina, Puerto Rico. Staff Sgt. Wheeler will be stationed at Fort Buchanan with the 448th Engineering Battalion in November. The Wheelers met online in October of 2007. After much electronic corresponding, they were engaged in Ponce, Puerto Rico at the Cruzeta del Vigia in February 2008 and performed a civil union ceremony on March 20, 2008 in Fort Lawton, Washington. They plan a church ceremony Dec. 27, 2008 in Carolina, Puerto Rico.

210th RSG leads the way in Operation Patriot Warrior



Standing in front of a 3,000 gallon water bladder that supplies the 12-head female shower facility, Spc. Mary Grundeen, Veterinary Food Inspector, 109th Medical Detachment, Candle Grove, California; Pfc. Mary Mitchell and Pfc. Andrea Martin both Military Police Officers, 377th Military Police Company, Cincinnati, Ohio, listen to Sgt. 1st Class Brunilda Ojeda, acting First Sergeant, 597th Quartermaster Company, Caguas, Puerto Rico, explain that the water pressure is low because of the water pump challenges that they face. Ojeda also had to act as mechanic and electrician to keep the water pump going. On average, 110 persons per day utilized the shower facilities. At the highest peak, 172 males and 35 females used the showers. 38 Soldiers from the 597th were split into two groups – 23 Soldiers at EPW-2-EDAM and 15 Soldiers at Dunlop during the Patriot Warrior exercise.



Staff Sgt. Francisco Correa and Pfc. Jose Gonzalez both cable systems installers with the 35th Signal Battalion are seen here installing another fiber optic cable behind the air ventilation hoses which supplies the Tactical Operation Center at the request of the Chaplain.



Photos by Capt. Anthony John
During Operation Patriot Warrior held at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, a University of Puerto Rico freshman student, 18-year old Pfc. Giovanni Limonggi, 35th Signal Battalion in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, explains to Col. Hector Lopez, commanding officer, 210th Regional Support Group, how he had to set up a 25-pair fiber optic multimedia converter for internet use in the Tactical Operation Center. Though the 35th Signal Bn. had to change locations several times, they were able to adapt and overcome these decision challenges and still set up on time for the exercise to begin.



Col. Hector Lopez, commanding officer, 210th RSG, poses with members the 35th Signal Battalion who supported Operation Patriot Warrior.



Staff Sgt. Carlos Nieves, cable systems installer, 35th Signal Battalion, explains to Col. Hector Lopez, about the control box that contains both a fiber optical panel, which can hold unlimited lines and a copper telephone box which has 25 pairs of phone lines. They were able to set up an AR-NET-internet and a TAC NET-unclassified line. Staff Sgt. Arroyo explained that the equivalent setup on the commercial market would cost about \$50,000 in material and \$200,000 overall.